

= Benjamin Morrell =

Benjamin Morrell ( July 5 , 1795 ? 1838 or 1839 ? ) was an American sea captain , explorer and trader who made a number of voyages , mainly to the Atlantic , the Southern Ocean and the Pacific Islands . In a ghost @-@ written memoir , A Narrative of Four Voyages , which describes his sea @-@ going life between 1823 and 1832 , Morrell included numerous claims of discovery and achievement , many of which have been disputed by geographers and historians , and in some cases have been proved false . He ended his career as a fugitive , having wrecked his ship and misappropriated parts of the salvaged cargo .

Morrell had an eventful early career , running away to sea at the age of 17 and being twice captured and imprisoned by the British during the War of 1812 . He subsequently sailed before the mast for several years before being appointed as chief mate , and later as captain , of the New York sealer Wasp . In 1823 he took Wasp for an extended voyage into subantarctic waters , and on his return made unsubstantiated claims to have travelled beyond 70 ° S and to have sighted new coastlines in the area now known as the Weddell Sea . His subsequent voyages mainly centered on the Pacific , where he attempted to develop trading relations with the indigenous populations . Although Morrell wrote of the enormous potential wealth to be obtained from the Pacific trade , his endeavours were , in the main , commercially unprofitable .

Despite his reputation among his contemporaries for untruth and fantasy , Morrell has been defended by some later commentators who , while questioning his general reliability , maintain that not all his life was fraud and exaggeration . They believe that aside from the bombast and boastful tone of the account that carries his name , there is evidence that he carried out useful work , such his discovery of large @-@ scale guano deposits which led to the development of a full @-@ scale industry . He is believed to have died in 1838 or 1839 , in Mozambique ; there is , however , evidence to suggest that this death might have been staged , and that he lived on in exile , possibly in South America .

= = Early life and career = =

Morrell was born at Rye , in Westchester County , New York , on July 5 , 1795 . He grew up in Stonington , Connecticut , where his father , also named Benjamin , was employed as a shipbuilder . Morrell , after minimal schooling , ran away to sea at the age of 17 " without taking leave of any member of my family , or intimating my purpose to a single soul " . During the War of 1812 , which broke out while he was at sea , he was twice captured by the British ; on his first voyage his ship , carrying a cargo of flour , was intercepted off St John 's , Newfoundland , and Morrell was detained for eight months . His second voyage landed him in Dartmoor prison , England , for two years . After his release Morrell continued his seafaring career , sailing before the mast as an ordinary seaman since his lack of education prevented him advancing to officer rank . A sympathetic captain , Josiah Macy , taught him what he needed to know to qualify as an officer , and in 1821 he was appointed chief mate on the sealer Wasp , under Captain Robert Johnson .

Wasp was bound for the South Shetland Islands , which had been discovered three years earlier by the British Captain William Smith . Morrell , who had evidently heard stories of these islands , was keen to go there . On the ensuing voyage he was involved in a series of " remarkable adventures " which included a narrow escape from drowning , then being lost at sea in a small boat during a gale that swept him 50 nautical miles ( 58 mi ; 93 km ) from the ship , and leading efforts to extricate Wasp when she became trapped in the ice . On the day following his return to New York , Morrell was appointed captain of Wasp , while Johnson took over the schooner Henry . The two ships were jointly commissioned to return to the South Seas for sealing , trading and exploration , and " to ascertain the practicality , under favourable circumstances , of penetrating to the South Pole . "

= = Four voyages = =

= = = First voyage : South Seas and Pacific Ocean = = =

Wasp and Henry sailed from New York on June 21 , 1822 , and remained together as far as the Falkland Islands . They then separated , Wasp travelling east in search of sealing grounds . Morrell 's account of the next few months of the voyage , in Antarctic and subantarctic waters , is controversial . His claims of distances , latitudes and discoveries have been challenged as inaccurate or impossible , giving substance to his reputation among his contemporaries for untruth , and leading to much criticism by later writers .

= = = Antarctic waters = = =

Morrell 's journal indicates that Wasp reached South Georgia on November 20 , and then sailed eastwards towards the isolated Bouvet Island , which lies approximately midway between Southern Africa and the Antarctic continent and is known as the world 's remotest island . It had been discovered in 1739 by the French navigator Jean @-@ Baptiste Charles Bouvet de Lozier , but his plotting of its position was inaccurate ; Captain James Cook , in 1772 , had been unable to find it and had assumed its nonexistence . It had not been seen again until 1808 , when the British sealing captains James Lindsay and Thomas Hopper reached it and recorded its correct position , though they were unable to land . Morrell , by his own account , found the island without difficulty ? with " improbable ease " , in the words of historian William Mills ? before landing and hunting seals there . In his subsequent lengthy description , Morrell does not mention the island 's most obvious physical feature , its permanent ice cover . This has caused some commentators to doubt whether he actually visited the island .

After leaving Bouvet Island Wasp continued eastward , reaching the Kerguelen Islands on December 31 , 1822 , where she remained for 11 days . The voyage then evidently continued to the south and east until February 1 , 1823 , when Morrell records his position as 65 ° 52'S , 118 ° 27'E . Here , Morrell says he took advantage of an eleven @-@ knot breeze and turned the ship , to begin a passage westward . Apart from one undated position at 69 ° 11'S , 48 ° 15'E , Morrell 's journal is silent until February 23 , when he records crossing the Greenwich ( 0 ° ) meridian . Historians have doubted whether such a long passage from 118 ° E , about 3 @, @ 500 nautical miles ( 4 @, @ 000 mi ; 6 @, @ 500 km ) , could have been made so quickly in ice @-@ strewn waters and against the prevailing winds . Although some writers , including former Royal Navy navigator Rupert Gould , have argued that Morrell 's claims as to speed and distance are plausible , Morrell 's undated interim latitude was later shown to be well inside the Antarctic mainland territory of Enderby Land . Gould , writing in 1928 before the continental boundaries of this sector of Antarctica were known , based his support for Morrell on the premise that Enderby Land was an island with a sea channel south of it . He added : " If at some future date Enderby Land is found to form part of the Antarctic continent , Morrell 's most inveterate champions will , perforce , have to throw up the sponge . "

According to Morrell , Wasp reached the South Sandwich Islands on February 28 . His presence there is corroborated by his descriptions of the harbour on Thule Island , confirmed by the early 20th century expeditions . In the next phase of the voyage Morrell records that he took Wasp southwards and , the sea being remarkably clear of ice , reached a latitude of 70 ° 14'S before turning north on March 14 as fuel for the ship 's stoves was running out . This journey , if Morrell 's account is true , made him the first American sea @-@ captain to penetrate the Antarctic Circle . He believed , he says , that but for this deficiency he could have " made a glorious advance directly to the South Pole , or to 85 ° without the least doubt " . Some credence to his claimed southern latitude is provided by James Weddell 's voyage on a similar track , a month earlier , which reached 74 ° 15'S before retreating . The words used by Weddell to express his belief that the South Pole lay in open water are replicated by Morrell , whose account was written nine years after the event . Thus it is suggested by geographer Paul Simpson @-@ Housley that Morrell may have plagiarised Weddell 's experiences , since Weddell 's account had been published in 1827 .

= = = New South Greenland = = =

Morrell 's account describes how on the day after turning north from his southernmost point , a large tract of land was sighted in the region of 67 ° 52'N , 44 ° 11'W . Morrell refers to this land as " New South Greenland " , and records that during the next few days Wasp explored more than 300 nautical miles ( 350 mi ; 560 km ) of coast . Morrell provided vivid descriptions of the land 's features , with observations of its abundant wildlife . No such land exists ; other appearances of land at or near this bearing , reported during the 1842 expedition of Sir James Clark Ross , have likewise proved imaginary . In 1917 the Scottish explorer William Speirs Bruce wrote that the existence of land in this area " should not be rejected until absolutely disproved . " By this time both Wilhelm Filchner and Ernest Shackleton , in their respective ice @-@ bound ships , had drifted close to the plotted positions of New South Greenland and reported no sign of it . It has been suggested that what Morrell saw was actually the eastern coast of the Antarctic Peninsula , some 400 nautical miles ( 460 mi ; 740 km ) further west from his sighting . This would require a navigational error of at least 10 ° , and a complete revision of Morrell 's timeline after leaving the South Sandwich Islands . Assuming that Morrell did not invent the experience , a possible explanation is that he witnessed a superior mirage .

= = = = Pacific and home = = = =

On March 19 Morrell " bade farewell to the cheerless shores of New South Greenland " , and sailed away from the Antarctic never to return . The remaining stages of the voyage are uncontroversial , involving a year @-@ long cruise in the Pacific Ocean . This took Wasp to the Galápagos Islands and also to the island of Más a Tierra where , a century earlier , the Scottish seaman Alexander Selkirk had been marooned , providing the inspiration for the Robinson Crusoe story . Wasp returned to New York in May 1824 . There , he found that his wife whom he had married in 1819 , not named in any accounts of Morrell 's life or career , and his two small children , likewise unnamed , had all died . He quickly married his 15 @-@ year @-@ old cousin , Abigail Jane Wood ( " Abby " ) .

= = = Second voyage : North and South Pacific = = =

For his second voyage Morrell took charge of a new ship , Tartar , which sailed from New York on July 19 , 1824 for the Pacific Ocean . In the next two years Tartar first explored the American coastline from the Straits of Magellan to Cape Blanco ( now in Oregon ) . He then sailed westward to the islands of Hawaii , known at that time as the Sandwich Islands , where Captain James Cook had met his death nearly 40 years earlier . Thereafter Tartar returned to the American coast and tracked slowly southwards back to the Straits of Magellan .

Among the events witnessed and recorded in Morrell 's journal were the siege of Callao , the main port of Peru , by Simón Bolívar 's liberators , and a spectacular volcanic eruption on Fernandina Island in the Galápagos archipelago , which Tartar visited during February 1825 . Fernandina , then known as Narborough Island , exploded on February 14 . In Morrell 's words " The heavens appeared to be one blaze of fire , intermingling with millions of falling stars and meteors ; while the flames shot upward from the peak of Narborough to the height of at least two thousand feet . " Morrell reports that the air temperature reached 123 ° F ( 51 ° C ) , and as Tartar approached the river of lava flowing into the sea , the water temperature rose to 150 ° F ( 66 ° C ) . Some of the crew collapsed in the heat .

Morrell also records how a hunting trip ashore in California led to a skirmish with the locals which turned into a full @-@ scale battle ending , he says , with seventeen natives dead and seven of Tartar 's men wounded . Morrell claims that he was among the casualties , with an arrow in his thigh . Of a visit to San Francisco Morrell writes : " The inhabitants are principally Mexicans and Spaniards who are very indolent and consequently very filthy . " After revisiting the Galapagos Islands and gathering a harvest of fur seal and terrapin , Tartar began a slow journey home on October 13 , 1825 . As they left the Pacific Morrell claimed to have personally inspected and

identified every danger existing along the American Pacific coast . Tartar finally reached New York Harbour on May 8 , 1826 with a main cargo of 6 @, @ 000 fur seals . This haul did not please Morrell 's employers , who had evidently expected rather more . " The reception I met from my owners was cold and repulsive " , he wrote . " The Tartar did not return home laden with silver and gold , and therefore my toils and dangers counted for nothing " .

= = = Third voyage : West African coast = = =

In 1828 Morrell was engaged by Messrs. Christian Bergh & Co. to take command of the schooner Antarctic ( named , he claims , in honour of his earlier Antarctic achievements ) . Antarctic left New York on June 25 , 1828 , bound for Western Africa . During the following months Morrell carried out an extensive survey of the African coast between the Cape of Good Hope and Benguela , and led several short excursions inland . He was impressed by the commercial potential of this coast , recording that " many kinds of skins may be procured about here , including those of the leopard , fox , bullock , together with ostrich feathers and valuable minerals " . At Ichaboe Island he discovered huge deposits of guano , 25 feet thick . In the face of such opportunity he records his belief that a \$ 30 @, @ 000 investment would produce in two years a profit " from ten to fifteen hundred per cent . "

During the voyage Morrell experienced several encounters with the slave trade , first at the Cape Verde Islands , then a centre for the trade because of its geographical position in relation to the Americas , Europe and Africa . He found the slaves ' conditions wretched , but was impressed by their passion for music which , he thought , " can alleviate even the pangs caused by the galling fetters of slavery " . Later in the voyage he witnessed what he describes as " horrid barbarity " , including the spectacle of two women slaves in their death agonies as a result of floggings . A lengthy soliloquy in his journal on the evils of slavery concludes : " [ T ] he root , the source , the foundation of the evil is the ignorance and superstition of the poor negroes themselves " . On June 8 , 1829 , Morrell wrote in his journal : " The voyage had been prosperous beyond our expectations , and any further stay on the African coast would have been a waste of time and money " . He arrived in New York on July 14 .

= = = Fourth voyage : South Seas and Pacific Ocean = = =

According to Morrell , Antarctic 's owners were unanimous that he should make another voyage with the ship , and in September 1829 Antarctic left New York , bound for the South Atlantic and Pacific in search of seals . At her own insistence , and against Morrell 's and the owners ' advice , his wife Abby accompanied him . By January 1830 Antarctic had reached the Auckland Islands , south of New Zealand , where Morrell had hoped for a rich harvest of seal , but found the waters empty . He sailed north for Manila in the Philippines , hoping to find a commercial cargo there , and arrived in March 1830 . No such cargo was available , but Morrell was persuaded by the American consul , George Hubbell , that a potentially profitable enterprise would be to collect sea cucumbers ( otherwise known as " Bêche @-@ du @-@ mer " ) , plentifully available in the islands now known as Micronesia . These could then be taken to China where they were much prized .

Hubbell would not permit Antarctic to sail with Abby on board ; possibly he had designs on her . Morrell sailed from Manila without her , and initially had little luck in finding sea cucumbers in any quantity . Eventually Antarctic reached the Carteret Islands , a small atoll which now forms part of Papua New Guinea , and found sea cucumbers in abundance . Morrell set up camp on one of the islands , where he faced a hostile reception from the population , who were nevertheless intrigued by their first sight of metal . There were thefts of tools ; Morrell responded by holding several chiefs as hostages , at which the islanders mounted a full @-@ scale attack on Morrell 's shore base . Fourteen crew members were killed ; Antactic was forced to make a hasty withdrawal , leaving much equipment behind .

Morrell retreated to Manila , planning retaliation . He hired a large number of Manilans to augment his crew , and with a help of a loan from the British consul , adapted Antarctica and fitted her with

guns and cannons . The ship , with Abby now on board , returned to the Carteret Islands and attacked with gunfire . After a series of such assaults and heavy casualties , the population sued for peace . This enabled Morrell to occupy one of the islands in exchange for cutlery , trinkets , tools and other metal artefacts . The peace was temporary ; Morrell 's shore camp was continually harassed by the population . Finally , Morrell decided to abandon the enterprise , citing the " unappeasable vindictiveness and incessant hostilities " of the native population .

On November 13 , 1830 , while returning to Manila , Antarctica anchored off the coast of the island of Uneapa ( in today 's West New Britain Province ) . A flotilla of native canoes approached the ship , full of apparently well @-@ armed and aggressive islanders . After his experiences at Carteret Island , Morrell took no chances and ordered his crew to fire . The small craft were shattered ; many died , while others manage to regain the shore . One man , who had clung to Antarctic 's rudder , was hauled on board as a prisoner . The crew named him " Sunday " ? his actual name was Dako . An account of this engagement was entered into the ship 's log by John Keeler , the ship 's young navigator . Just over a week later , on November 22 , a skirmish in the Ninigo Islands brought Morrell another captive , whom the crew named " Monday " ( his true name was never discovered ) . With two native prisoners , but little else to show from this venture , Antarctic returned to Manila in mid @-@ December .

By now desperate for some profitable activity , Morrell made some money by displaying Dako and Monday to a fascinated public . The only maritime opportunity available was to take a cargo to Cádiz , which he was obliged to accept . He left Manila on January 13 , 1831 , taking his captives with him . When Antarctic reached Cádiz five months later the port was under quarantine and closed . He was forced to discharge the cargo in Bordeaux , where Dako and Monday , rumored in the town to be cannibals , again attracted great curiosity . Antarctic finally reached New York on August 27 , 1831 ; despite his lack of commercial success , Morrell remained upbeat about future prospects in the Pacific . " I could , with only a modest share of patronage ... open a new avenue of trade more lucrative than any that our country has ever yet enjoyed , and further , it would be in my power , and mine alone , to secure the monopoly for any term I pleased . " In the final paragraph of his account of the Morrell records that his wife 's father , her aunt and her aunt 's child had all died during his absence , as had one of Morrell 's cousins and her husband .

= = Later career = =

= = = Money @-@ making = = =

When he returned to New York after his profitless fourth voyage , Morrell was heavily in debt and in urgent need of funds . Newspapers showed great interest in the story of the voyage , and Morrell was keen to cash in . Within a few days of his arrival he had organised a stage show , entitled " Two Cannibals of the Islands of the South Pacific " . This spectacle , embellished with accounts of the massacre at Carteret Island and other dramatic inclusions , played to large crowds at New York 's Rubens Peale museum . In October 1831 Morrell took the show on a tour , which began in Albany on October 10 . Among those who visited the show was the 12 @-@ year @-@ old Herman Melville , the future author of Moby @-@ Dick , who may have based the character of Queequeg on his memory of Dako . The tour proceeded to Philadelphia , Baltimore and finally Washington DC , before ending in January 1832 , at which point Morrell returned the show to Peale 's .

Morrell 's second projected source of funds was his account of his voyages , which the firm of J. and J. Harper were willing to publish . They engaged an experienced writer and dramatist , Samuel Woodworth , to make sense of Morrell 's notes and sea journals , although Woodworth 's role as ghost writer was not made public . Abby Morrell 's journals received similar treatment from another established author , Samuel Knapp . His book was published in December 1832 , hers early in 1833 . Morrell 's was very successful and sold well ; the New York Mirror found it " a highly interesting and instructive work " , with " stirring adventures and much geographical and nautical information " . France 's leading explorer Jules Dumont d 'Urville was complimentary , acknowledging Morrell as "

courageous , skilled and dedicated " ; the explorer and journalist Jeremiah Reynolds , on the other hand , observed that the account contained more poetry than truth . Abby 's book attracted less attention . It purported to be written to promote " the amelioration of the condition of the American seaman " , a subject in which she had not otherwise evinced interest . Woodworth exploited the public 's curiosity by preparing a stage play , The Cannibals , which opened at the Bowery Theatre , New York , in March 1833 and had a lengthy and successful run . Morrell 's ghosted account was one of the sources used by Edgar Allan Poe in his novel The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym .

= = = Return to the Pacific = = =

With the restoration of his fortunes and his new @-@ found fame , Morrell began plans for a further Pacific voyage , intending to return Dako and Monday to their islands and exploit further trading opportunities . Having lobbied unsuccessfully for Congressional funding , Morrell eventually found backers who secured a converted brigantine , Margaret Oakley , in which he set sail from New York on March 9 , 1834 . Among the crew was Samuel Woodworth 's 18 @-@ year @-@ old son Selim Woodworth , whose journals and letters provided a record of the voyage . Monday was not with them ; he had died a year previously .

Margaret Oakley took the westerly route to the Pacific , across the Atlantic to the Cape Verde Islands , then south to the Cape of Good Hope and across the Indian Ocean , arriving in the vicinity of Dako 's home islands in November 1834 . Dako was received rapturously by his people , as one who had returned from the dead . Morrell remained in the area for several months , exploring and collecting artefacts , before departing in April 1835 for Port Jackson ( Sydney Harbour ) in Australia for repairs and repainting . By June , Morrell was back among the Pacific islands , where he took his final leave of Dako . After a fruitless interval prospecting for gold on the New Guinea mainland , Morrell took the ship to Canton in China , where he found a valuable cargo for New York on which he anticipated a profit of \$ 100 @,@ 000 .

After leaving Canton on November 14 , Margaret Oakley was delayed in Singapore by bad weather , where some of the cargo was sold to pay for repairs . The ship left Singapore on December 31 , 1835 , and was seen off Mauritius in early February 1836 , but then disappeared . She was given up for lost with all her crew before , months later , news arrived in Mauritius that she had been wrecked on the coast of Madagascar . The crew was rescued , although much of the ship 's cargo was lost in the wreck , and more was used to pay off the rescuers and other of Morrell 's debts . When representatives of the insurers arrived in Madagascar to assess the loss , they discovered that Morrell had departed , taking part of the remaining cargo with him . He found his way to South Africa , where he boarded a British ship , Rio Packet , bound for London . Outside US jurisdiction , he was beyond the reach of the American authorities , who equated his actions with piracy .

= = = Final years and death = = =

In London early in 1837 , Morrell attempted to convert some of the purloined cargo into cash , but word of his activities had spread , and the proceeds were immediately confiscated by agents acting for Margaret Oakley 's insurers . His reputation as a probable fraud prevented him from finding new employment ; he sought work with the shipping firm of Enderby Brothers , but Charles Enderby said that " he had heard so much of [ Morrell ] that he did not think fit to enter into any engagement with him . " Thwarted in London , Morrell turned his attention to France . He had heard that d 'Urville was organising an expedition to the Antarctic , and on June 20 , 1837 , wrote to the French Geographical Society in Paris to offer his services : " I will engage to place the Proud Banner of France ten degrees nearer the Pole than any other Banner has ever been planted , providing I can obtain the command of a Small schooner ... properly manned and equipped " . His offer was declined ; Morrell was by now regarded as a fraud in France as well as in Britain and America .

It is not known how Morrell supported himself during his months in London ; it is possible that Abby sent him funds from America . Somehow , in the autumn of 1837 he made his way to Havana in Cuba , after which his movements are unclear . It appears that he eventually obtained command of

a vessel , possibly the Christine , and that he sailed in September 1838 , probably planning a return to the Pacific . He got no further than Mozambique on the East African coast ; his ship was wrecked , and Morrell was stranded ashore . He is reported to have died , either of fever or during an insurrection , in late 1838 or early 1839 . This story is complicated by an alternative account indicating that Christine was wrecked a year later , early in 1840 , although whether Morrell was alive and in command by that date is unrecorded . Christine was known as a slave ship , which raises the possibility that in his final years Morrell was engaged with the slave trade . Fairhead suggests an alternative hypothesis : that Morrell staged his death in Mozambique , to evade Margaret Oakley 's insurers . In this scenario he may have escaped to South America and lived out his days there . A letter dated August 11 , 1843 , to the editor of The New York Commercial Advertiser and signed " Morrell " could , Fairhead maintains , only have been written by someone with intimate knowledge of the Oakley voyage . Fairhead offers no explanation why Morrell , if alive , should break his silence other than : " Perhaps , like many criminals , he could not resist flaunting himself " .

There is little documented history for Abby Morrell after 1838 : two records , respectively dated 1841 and 1850 , place her in New York , but details of her life and eventual death are unknown .

= = Assessment = =

Despite Morrell 's exposure as a fraud , following the Margaret Oakley debacle , his contemporaries did not uniformly denounce him . To some , he was " the biggest liar in the Pacific " , while d 'Urville , who had earlier warmly praised Morrell 's Four Voyages account , turned on the American and accused him of fabricating many of his supposed discoveries . However , Jeremiah Reynolds , who had expressed scepticism over the narrative , included Morrell 's Pacific discoveries in his report to Congress A Report in relation to islands , reefs , and shoals in the Pacific Ocean . This , says Simpson @-@ Housley , was surely a compliment to the otherwise disgraced navigator .

Later commentators and historians have tended to assess his career with a degree of sympathy . Hugh Robert Mill of the Royal Geographical Society , writing in 1905 , considered that a man may be ignorant and boastful , yet still do solid work . Mill thought Morrell " intolerably vain , and as great a braggart as any hero of autobiographical romance " , but still found the narrative itself " most entertaining " . Rupert Gould , writing in 1928 , thought that Morrell may have been boastful and self @-@ aggrandizing , but that did not make him a deliberate liar . Gould points to the accurate information provided by Morrell on the discovery of the guano deposits on Ichaboe Island , which laid the foundations of a flourishing industry .

William Mills , a much more recent commentator , echoes the view that " something may be salvaged from Morrell 's account , although much of it must be discarded " . In regard to the Antarctic discoveries , which are Mills 's particular concern , he points out that these are given no special emphasis . Morrell does not seem to regard the Antarctic expedition as particularly remarkable , and the discovery of " New South Greenland " is not claimed by Morrell himself but is credited to Captain Johnson in 1821 . In the preface to his Four Voyages book , Morrell admits that he incorporated the experiences of others into his account . Paul Simpson @-@ Housley suggests that as well as adapting Weddell 's narrative as his own experience , Morrell may have taken the details of his 1823 visit to Bouvet Island from the records of an 1825 visit by Captain George Norris ,

As a reminder of Morrell 's brief Antarctic exploits , Morrell Island , at 59 ° 27'S , 27 ° 19'W , is an alternative name for Thule Island in the Southern Thule sub @-@ group of the South Sandwich Islands . During his Pacific travels Morrell encountered groups of islands that were not on his charts , treated them as new discoveries and named them after various New York acquaintances ? Westervelt , Bergh , Livingstone , Skiddy . One was named " Young William Group " after Morrell 's infant son . None of these names appear in modern maps , although the " Livingstone Group " has been identified with Namonuito Atoll , and " Bergh 's Group " with the Chuuk Islands .

= = = Books and journals = = =

== Online ==