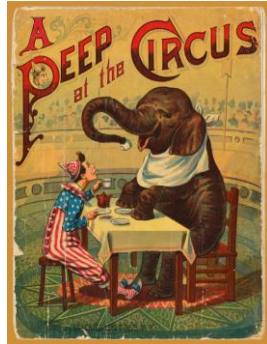




# Seaside News



There's a fascinating story that occurred around the time of the Civil War that features lions, and tigers, and bears, oh my! The wreck of Black Squall in April 1861 is described by historians and in period newspaper articles and books, but each description varies to some degree. What writers seem to agree on is that it did occur in April of that year off Ocracoke, but did it actually have wild animals on board that roamed the island?

Most accounts say that onboard was Nixon's Royal Circus which, at least, included horses; some accounts mention camels, hippos, giraffes, lions, tigers, and bears.

The circus was traveling from Havana to New York when the two-masted square-rigged brig ran into a gale and grounded in the breakers. All sorts of circus items such as juggling pins, tents, and costumes washed ashore. One account says that islanders used the tents to make sails.

On board was William Nixon, who was the adopted son of James Nixon, owner of the circus. William died in the wreck. A legend attached to the wreck is that two horses, Nero and Zero, "beautiful prancing horses," bedecked with ribbons, survived the wreck, and helped populate the island with Arabian horses.

1. Who was the owner of the circus?
2. What are the names of the two horses mentioned in the story?
3. What did the islanders make out of the tents?
4. How many kinds of animals are mentioned in the story?

1. James Nixon
2. Nero and Zero
3. Sails
4. Seven

## WORD SEARCH

F T R O Y A L N M M P Q H E N  
 F O S Q S N O B B I R A Q L O  
 B M O A Z Z T A L Z V K W A S  
 W F P F E Q P B E A R S V G L  
 A S P I O R C F N C O X L V E  
 I E I B I D W A R D A Y I L M  
 M F H L P R A N C I N G O I A  
 G F J L Y O R K K U Q K N V C  
 I A R K O C R A C O K E S I I  
 R R H V W E N U B W N O W C Y  
 B I H A I C T I G E R S R G F  
 G G L L A U Q S L S U C R I C  
 H N I H J A R A B I A N S K G  
 O G R L X R I V L U O Y Z D V  
 R X I N O X I N K C A L B O N

BLACK SQUALL  
 HIPPOS  
 CAMELS  
 GIRAFFES  
 LIONS  
 TIGERS  
 BEARS  
 GALE  
 BRIG  
 NIXON  
 RIBBONS  
 ARABIAN  
 PRANCING  
 HAVANA

NEW YORK  
 ROYAL  
 CIRCUS  
 OCRACOKE  
 APRIL  
 CIVIL  
 WAR

## JOKE OF THE MONTH!

What crashes onto the shore on very small beaches?

Micro-waves.