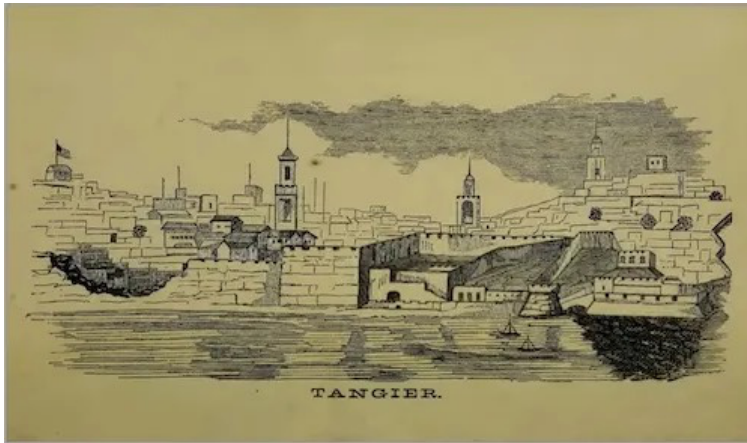


# Women's History Month: The First Daughter of the Legation

By John Davison, former Resident Director of TALIM  
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As we begin our celebrations of Women's History Month, it is fitting that we honor the "First Daughter of the Legation," Glorvina Mullowny Fort, who as a young woman traveled to Tangier from Philadelphia in the 1820s to join her father John Mullowny, who headed the American Consulate in Tangier.

Later in her life in 1859, at the urging of her friends, Glorvina published a series of letters that she had written during the seven years she had spent in Tangier into a fascinating book which you can read online, "[Coos-coo-soo, or Letters from Tangier, in Africa.](#)"

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In these times of pandemic, it may also interest you to learn that in her second letter, Glorvina describes shipboard quarantine in Gibraltar!

A digital version of this article can be found [here](#), along with other blog posts from TALIM

## LETTER II.

### QUARANTINE.

Gibraltar Bay, Dec. 24th, 18--.

MY DEAR FRIEND :

This morning we arose very early. At about 8 o'clock a boat from the quarantine guard-ship came alongside of ours, and an officer in it received our American bill of health, with a pair of long iron tongs and dipped it in vinegar. Then, after asking our captain a long list of questions, the officer ordered his men to return to the guard-ship, where he had to exhibit our bill of health.

In the course of a few hours the same boat returned, and told us that we would have to move into the quarantine ground, and there remain—he could not yet tell how many days. They said that our paper would have to be examined more fully before it could be decided how much longer we would have to remain prison-bound.

The hateful, yellow flag then was hoisted to