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In This Issue

[SSHSA Moves to Warwick, Rhode Island](#)

[Panama Canal Celebrates 100 Years](#)

[Belle of Louisville Centennial Celebration in October](#)

[Centennial Celebration for Cape Cod Canal](#)

[In Memoriam](#)

[What's Happening in Ship History?](#)

2014 Annual Appeal

Thank you to all who have donated to SSHSA's 2014 Annual Appeal. If you haven't contributed yet, there is still time.

[What do your contributions do?](#)

- Preserve fragile documents and artifacts

SSHSA Moves to Warwick, Rhode Island

After moving eighteen truckloads of documents, images, books, ship plans, memorabilia, ship models, and the rest of our archives, SSHSA has relocated to Warwick, Rhode Island. We are in the process of unpacking and organizing our library (which had been closed since 2006), and we have plans to create exhibits for the public, with access for researchers to explore our

extensive archives. To read more about our plans for the future of SSHSA, please [click here](#).

SSHSA was also featured in an article in the Warwick Beacon on August 14. To read this article, please [click here](#).

We are anticipating a ribbon cutting and festivities in mid-October 2014.

SSHSA's new address is:

**2500 Post Road
Warwick, RI 02886
(401) 463-3570**

(Above photo: SSHSA's Executive Director, Matt Schulte, works on unpacking our extensive library. -- Andrew Dickerman photo)

Panama Canal Celebrates 100 Years

The Panama Canal, a 48-mile ship canal that connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, is celebrating its centennial this week. The canal cuts across the Isthmus of Panama and is a key conduit for international maritime trade. On August 15, 1914, the Panama Canal was formally opened with the passage of the cargo ship *SS Ancon*, a Panama Railroad Company-owned vessel that provided shipping required for the canal's

- Help to digitize the images in our archives
- Continue to make PowerShips your favorite magazine on engine-powered vessels
- Permit us to continue organizing the collections and library in our new home

Help support SSHSA's Annual Appeal today! [Click here](#) to donate securely online, or you may return the Annual Appeal card you received in the mail. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

(Above photo: Hudson River Dayline officers)

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construction.

Several events have been planned to commemorate this historic event.

The University of Florida will salute the 100th anniversary with three days of special exhibits and lectures, beginning on August 15. The Panama Canal Museum Collection, established in 1998 and transferred to the University of Florida in 2012, contains documents, photos and memorabilia that focuses on the American era at the canal. This celebration is the first time many of the items from the canal museum collection will be on public display at the University of Florida.

Miraflores Visitors Center in Panama City, Panama continues to host an event titled "Magical Night at the Panama Canal" each Saturday evening in August. Through October 5, "Traces of a Historic Undertaking: Panama Canal Expansion" is being hosted at Panama City's Museum of Contemporary Art.

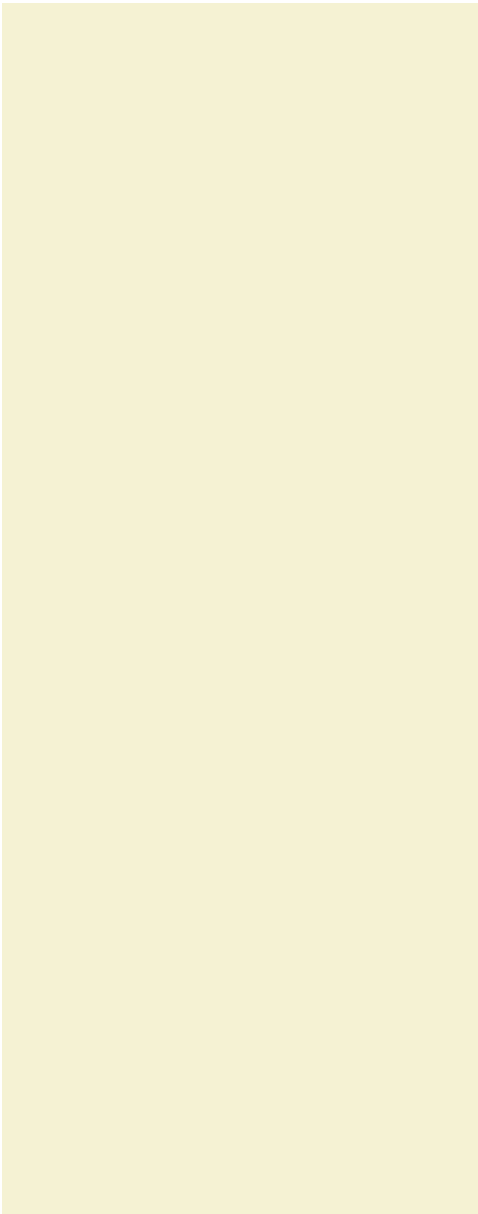
Interesting facts about the Panama Canal

- The United States uses the canal the most, followed by China, Japan, Chile and North Korea.
- The Canal transports 4 percent of world trade and 16 percent of total U.S.-borne trade.
- More than 60 million pounds of dynamite were used to excavate and construct the canal.
- The fastest transit was completed in 2 hours 41 minutes by the U.S. Navy's Hydrofoil *Pegasus* in 1979.
- In 1963 fluorescent lighting was installed, allowing the canal to begin operating 24 hours a day.
- Between 12,000 and 15,000 ships cross the Panama Canal every year – roughly 40 a day.

(Above image: New Zealand Shipping Co. Poster featuring the Panama Canal, Chase Poster Collection, SSHSA Archives)

Belle of Louisville Centennial Celebration in October

In addition to the Panama Canal's centennial celebration, the *Belle of*



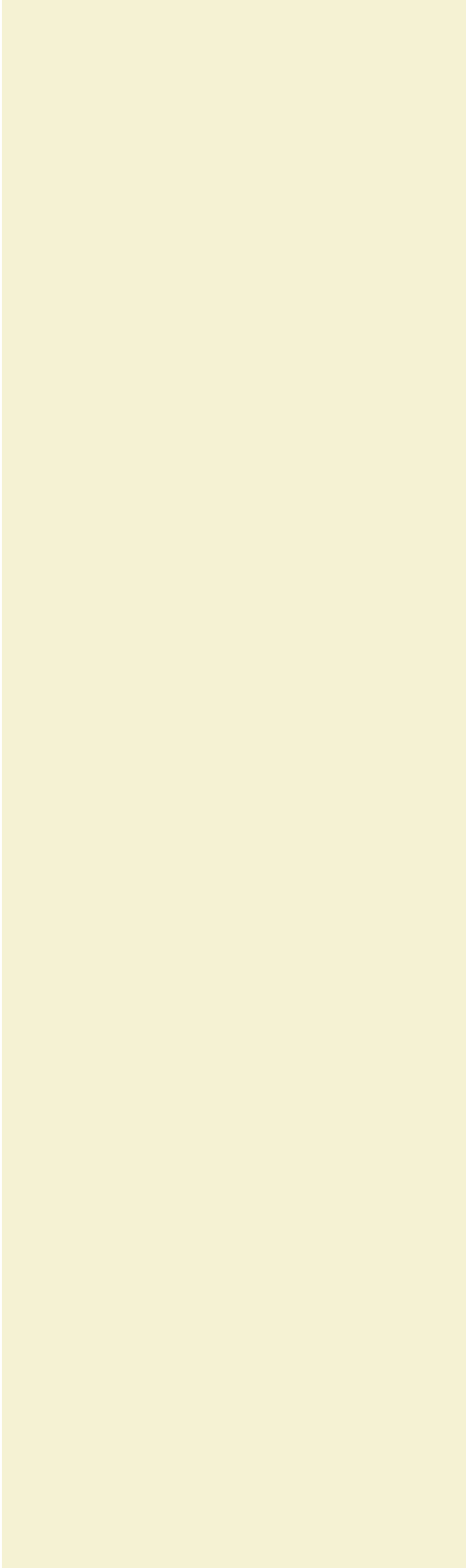
Louisville, a true Mississippi steamboat still in operation, celebrates her 100th birthday in October. Originally named the *Idlewild*, the *Belle of Louisville* was built in 1914 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She was designed to be a ferry and day packet vessel, and was also outfitted for her later career as an excursion boat. Completely paddlewheel-driven with a steel hull that draws only five feet of water, she was able to travel on almost every navigable inland waterway, earning her the distinction of being the most widely traveled river steamboat in the nation. The *Belle of Louisville* was named a National Historic Landmark on June 30, 1989, and continues to offer cruises on the Mississippi River today.

For more information on the *Belle of Louisville* and to purchase tickets for her 2014 season, please [click here](#).

(Above photo: *Belle of Louisville*, SSHSA Archives)

Centennial Celebration for Cape Cod Canal

Another exciting centennial celebration this year is for the Cape Cod Canal, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in July 2014. The idea of creating a Cape Cod Canal dates back to 1623, when Miles Standish of the Plymouth Colony proposed creating a man-made canal separating Cape Cod from Massachusetts' mainland. Instead of sailing the treacherous waters around the arm of Cape Cod, Pilgrims would be able to leave Cape



Cod Bay and head directly south to trade with the Native Americans and Dutch. However, the settlers found themselves unable to take on the task, as their labor force and technology could not handle the required work.

During the American Revolution, building a Cape Cod Canal was again of interest in order to evade British harbor blockades. Going into the nineteenth century, many plans were made, but none succeeded. Meanwhile, the toll of shipwrecks along the hazardous outer banks of Cape Cod continued to mount. During the late 1880's, shipwrecks occurred at the rate of one

every two weeks.

By the 1900s, ideas and technology were both advanced enough to finally build the canal. A wealthy New York financier named August Belmont and modern engineering came together to finally make the Pilgrim's dream a reality. The grand opening of the Cape Cod Canal was July 29, 1914.

Cape Cod Canal's centennial celebration was held on July 25-August 3, 2014, and was filled with maritime-themed events, from historical exhibits and tall ships on display to a tugboat parade and children's activities along the canal. To read more about the events that took place and to see what events the Cape Cod Canal has in the near future, please [click here](#).

(Above Photo: Aerial view of the Cape Cod Canal-- US Army Corps of Engineers photo)

In Memoriam

Dr. George Hilton, retired college professor, author, transportation economist, and longtime SSHSA member, passed away on August 4, 2014. Born in 1925, Dr. Hilton was raised in Chicago, Illinois. During his childhood, he became fascinated by trains and ships. Dr. Hilton was a graduate of Dartmouth College, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in 1946 and a Master's degree in 1950. He attended the London School of Economics from 1953 to 1955, and earned his Ph.D. in 1956 from

the University of Chicago. After beginning his teaching career at the University of Maryland, College Park and Stanford University, he joined the faculty of the University of California, Los Angeles in 1962, where he taught economics and transportation regulation until retiring in 1992.

Dr. Hilton was the author of 15 books, mainly on transportation, and numerous articles. "The book he was most proud of was *Eastland:*

Legacy of the Titanic, an examination of a 1915 disaster, published in 1995, in which an excursion boat capsized while docked in the Chicago River, killing more than 800 people," William Hyder, a former Sunday Sun TV critic, reporter and longtime friend, wrote in a biographical sketch.

Dr. Hilton was the 1996 recipient of SSHSA's C. Bradford Mitchell Award for *Eastland: Legacy of the Titanic*, and the 2008 recipient of SSHSA's Samuel Ward Stanton Award, in recognition of his four major works and numerous lesser ones contributing to scholarship on steam navigation particularly focused on the Great Lakes.

In addition, Dr. Hilton also wrote articles for *Steamboat Bill* and other publications, and worked on *The Illustrated History of Paddle Steamers*. He also wrote a booklet on the Staten Island Ferry. Dr. Hilton served on the Board of Directors for SSHSA as well as the Publications Committee. Members in the past enjoyed his lectures on Great Lakes topics. His contributions to maritime history are of great value to SSHSA and to any marine historian.

(Above photo: SSHSA Board Member Barry Eager (left) presents George W. Hilton with the 2008 Samuel Ward Stanton Award during a dinner in Columbia, Maryland, on August 8, 2008.— Christopher Dougherty photo.)

What's Happening in Ship History?

This is a brief listing, so make sure to check locally for what's going on in your area.

August 23rd-24th

Toledo Antique & Classic Boat Show
The National Museum of the Great Lakes
Toledo, Ohio
<http://toledoboatshow.com/>

September 13th

Sea Music Festival
San Francisco Maritime National Park

San Francisco, CA

<http://www.maritime.org/events.htm>

September 17th-21st

Maritime Heritage Conference

Norfolk, VA

<http://www.nauticus.org/maritime/index.html>

SSHSA is a sponsor of the Maritime Heritage Conference!

September 27th

Philadelphia Cup Regatta

Independence Seaport Museum

Philadelphia, PA

<http://www.phillyseaport.org/events>

September 28th-December 31st

35th Annual International Marine Art Exhibition

Mystic Seaport

Maritime Art Gallery, Mystic, CT

<http://www.mysticseaport.org/event/international-marine-art-exhibition/>

October 4th

Classic Workboat Show

Northwest Seaport

Seattle, WA

<http://nwseaport.org/event/classic-workboat-show/>

October 14th-19th

Festival of Riverboats

Waterfront Park

Louisville, KY

For more information and to purchase tickets, please [click here](#).

April 13th-14th, 2015

CAMM Annual Meeting

Los Angeles Maritime Museum

San Pedro, CA

<http://councilofamericanmaritimemuseums.org/2014/05/20/dates-for-camms-2015-annual-meeting/>

Ahoy! is the quarterly electronic newsletter for those interested in maritime history. It is produced in February, May, August and November and distributed by Steamship Historical Society of America to friends, members and any other individuals interested in maritime heritage. Alissa Cafferky, Editor, *Ahoy!*

Find us on:

Renew Your Membership Today

SSHSA, 2500 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886