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Click on the logos below to access our social media websites. These websites are updated daily, and share history, current events, and information on what's happening in SSHSA's new headquarters.

Queen Mary 2 to Undergo Renovations

At a recent event commemorating Cunard's 175th anniversary, the line's North American president, Rick Meadows, announced there are major refurbishments in store for the *Queen Mary 2* during a 25-day drydock in 2016.

Following the refurbishments, the 11-year-old flagship will offer 15 single-occupancy cabins for the first time and will add 30 more Britannia Club Balcony staterooms,

with anytime dining privileges in the Britannia restaurant. Additionally, the dog kennels will be expanded and a lamp post and fire hydrant will be added to the dog walking area.

Cunard is expected to announce additional renovations and features at a later date. The *Queen Mary 2* is scheduled to be in drydock from May 27th to June 21st, 2016.

(Above image: *Queen Mary 2*, WorldMaritimeNews.com photo)

New Mackinac Island Ferry Christened

In Mackinaw City, Michigan, the MV *Miss Margy* was christened by Governor Rick Snyder and Shepler's Mackinac Island Ferry CEO Bill Shepler on July 12, 2015. Built by Moran Iron Works in

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Follow SSHSA on Tumblr to view maritime-related posts, ship images, and latest archive finds.

Favorite SSHSA on Flickr to view images of conferences, events, and meetings, and scans of images from SSHSA's photo archives.

The Summer 2015 *PowerShips* has landed

The latest issue of *PowerShips* features a first-hand account of a crew member on the MV *Balmoral*, a last look at the *Leonardo da Vinci*, a 75-year-history

Onaway, Michigan, the 281-passenger ferry is the first to be built in Northern Michigan. The construction of the *Miss Margy* included the products and services of 20 Michigan-based companies.

Named after Bill Shepler's mother, Margaret, the *Miss Margy* is the sixth (and currently the largest) passenger ferry in Michigan and is expected to sail by September. She features an air-conditioned cabin, as well as a ventilation system to remove interior condensation from windows during inclement weather. The ferry has a top speed of 40 MPH and will transport approximately 350,000 visitors to Mackinac Island each year.

(Above image: MV *Miss Margy*, Shepler's Mackinac Island Ferry photo)

Memorial for 1925 Steamship Disaster

Ninety years after a steamship disaster that killed dozens of Rhode Islanders, the sinking of the *Mackinac* is remembered during an annual memorial with the unveiling of a plaque dedicated to the memory of those whose lives were lost.

On August 18, 1925, more than 600 passengers and crew were injured and 55 perished when a boiler exploded in the Narragansett Bay, soon after the ship left Newport, Rhode Island.

The plaque was installed at the recently renovated Festival Pier in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, the *Mackinac*'s intended destination. Pawtucket leaders organize the annual remembrance, as many of the victims were from the city. There were several relatives present for the memorial.

Cruise ship Finds a Home in New York

of *Steamboat Bill* and *PowerShips*, and much more. It's not too late to come on board if your membership has lapsed, or if you would like to join SSHSA. Join or renew today by [clicking here](#) or calling our headquarters at (401) 463-3570. You'll receive a copy of the Summer 2015 *PowerShips* with your new membership card. Don't miss out!

127-Year-Old Vessel Discovered in Lake Michigan

Researchers say they have found the wreck of the *John V. Moran*, a 214-foot steamer that was lost 116 years ago while traveling between Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Muskegon, Michigan. A team with the Michigan Shipwreck Research Association recently discovered the ship during a sonar search, and Co-Director Valerie van Heest states the vessel is one of the best-preserved wrecks in the Great Lakes. Despite spending more than a century under 365 feet of water, the vessel was found sitting upright at the bottom of the lake almost entirely intact, with the exception of her smokestack.

Launched in 1888, in Bay City, Michigan, by Frank W. Wheeler & Co., the *John V. Moran* worked throughout the Great Lakes under three owners in her short career. The ship was on her way from Milwaukee to Muskegon when she disappeared into the waters of Lake Michigan in February 1899, after ice punched a hole in the hull and the ship began to flood.

The vessel was among many steamers owned by Captain Edward Gifford Crosby,

In a few short months, Royal Caribbean's *Anthem of the Seas* will begin sailing year-round out of the New York area. Starting on November 4, 2015, the cruise ship will sail five-to twelve-night cruises from New York's Cape Liberty Cruise Port to Bermuda, the Bahamas, the Caribbean, and New England.

Unveiled in April, the *Anthem of the Seas* spent her first few months cruising around Europe and holds 4,180 passengers. The cruise ship has amenities such as a deck-top ride into the sky, a bar with robot bartenders, a skydiving simulator, and a deck-top fun zone called the "SeaPlex," which includes bumper cars and roller skating.

Mark Tamis, Senior Vice President for Royal Caribbean's hotel operations, has stated that the ship is perfect for year-round sailings out of the New York area, as it has a wide variety of indoor fun zones and experiences that will appeal to passengers on off-season sailings. Additionally, Royal Caribbean feels that the *Anthem of the Seas*' biggest appeal to potential cruisers in the Northeast will be that its location is just a short drive away.

(Above image: *Anthem of the Seas*, GCaptain.com photo)

Navy Vessel to Make History in Buffalo

For the first time in Buffalo, New York, history, a new combat vessel will be accepted into the US Navy's fleet. The USS *Little Rock*, built in Marinette, Wisconsin, will be commissioned in December 2016 or May 2017, depending on the weather in the Great Lakes and the completion of her trial runs in Lake Michigan. The USS *Little Rock*'s commissioning will be a unique event, as she will receive the honor beside a decommissioned ship bearing the same name. According to officials at the Buffalo & Erie County Naval and Military Park, this exciting event will present an opportunity to showcase the history of the Navy and its ships, as well as the Buffalo waterfront.

The new USS *Little Rock* received her name after crew members from the former USS *Little Rock* persuaded Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus to assign the name to one of the Navy's newest warships. Mabus served as a junior officer on the USS *Little Rock* in 1971 and 1972 and is a long-standing member of the USS *Little Rock* Association.

founder of the Crosby Transportation Co. who later died in the sinking of the *Titanic*. Amazingly, all 25 crewmembers of the *John V. Moran* survived her sinking.

(Above image: *John V. Moran*, Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library photo)

Princess of Acadia Replaced

The *Princess of Acadia*, the last passenger ship with ties to the Canadian Pacific Railway and Steamship Company, has made her final voyage. Originally launched as the *Princess Nova*, the *Princess of Acadia* was built in Canada by Saint John Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Limited and entered service under her current name on May 27, 1971. She was most recently operated by Bay Ferries on a government subsidized service between Saint John, New Brunswick and Digby, Nova Scotia. On October 27, 2014, the Canadian government announced that a newer ship, the *Fundy Rose*, had been purchased from Blue Star Ferries of Greece.

Built in 2000, the *Fundy Rose* (ex-*Blue Star Ithaki*, Canada2014) was recently placed into service as a replacement for the *Princess of Acadia*.

The *Princess of Acadia* made her final roundtrip voyage on July 27, 2015. After much fanfare and sendoffs, she was laid up at Saint John and is currently for sale. If a trading buyer is not found, the passenger vessel will most likely be sold for scrap.

2015 World Maritime Technology Conference to be Held in Rhode Island

The new *Little Rock* is a Littoral Combat Ship (LCS), which means she will operate in waters close to shore. The ship has a helicopter launch pad, a ramp for small boats, and can be used by small assault forces.

The original USS *Little Rock* began its service as a light cruiser in 1945.

In 1949, she was decommissioned but recommissioned in 1960 as a guided missile cruiser, patrolling the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean and Mediterranean seas before being permanently taken out of service in 1976 and brought to Buffalo.

The USS *Little Rock* Association's membership consists of sailors and marines who served on the former USS *Little Rock*, and those who are presently serving on the new USS *Little Rock*. The Association hosts annual reunions for past crew members and guests, and in 2015, over 200 people were in attendance. It is expected that many members of the Association will attend the commissioning.

(Above image: USS *Little Rock*, US Navy photo courtesy of Lockheed Martin)

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.

September 16th-18th

Historic Naval Ships Association Annual Conference

Battleship *Iowa*

San Pedro, CA

<http://www.hnsa.org/events/2015-hnsa-conference-save-the-dates/>

September 17th

Ghost Shipwrecks Recently Discovered off San Francisco's Golden Gate

7:00PM-8:30PM

Free for Museum members, \$10.00 for non-members

Santa Barbara Maritime Museum

Santa Barbara, CA

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

September 19th

The Mariners' Gallery Crawl

6:30PM-10:00PM

Tickets: \$55 in advance and \$60 day-of-event

Mariners' Museum

Newport News, VA

<http://www.marinersmuseum.org/event/gallery-crawl/>

SSHSA will have a presence at the World Maritime Technology Conference from November 3rd-7th in Providence, Rhode Island. Learn more about the Conference by [clicking here](#).

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September 27th

By Land and By Sea: Antique Vehicle Show

9:00AM-5:00PM

Mystic Seaport

Mystic, CT

<http://www.mysticseaport.org/event/by-land-and-by-sea-antique-vehicle-show-2/>

October 5th-6th

Museum Small Craft Association Annual Meeting

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

St. Michaels, MD

www.museumsmallcraft.org

November 3rd-7th

5th World Maritime Technology Conference

Rhode Island Convention Center & Omni Hotel

Providence, RI

www.sname.org/2015wmtc/home

November 10th

Edmund Fitzgerald 40th Anniversary Memorial Ceremony

7:00PM

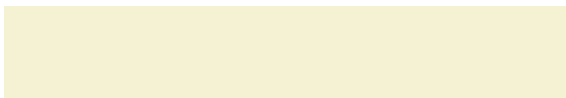
Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum

Paradise, MI

<https://www.shipwreckmuseum.com/events-129/>

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!*



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