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The Winter issue
of *PowerShips* has landed

Uncovered wreck might be legendary steamship

Historians and federal officials believe that a tropical storm has revealed the final resting place of one of the most famous steam vessels in American history.

Research is still underway on the 13 by 13 foot section discovered off the coast of Fire Island, New York, last October, but one name has risen to the top of the list — the *Savannah*, which was the first ship to cross the Atlantic under steam power more than 200 years ago. Officials say the hull section shows construction techniques consistent with those used around the time the ship was built and estimate that the wreck is just about the same size as the *Savannah's* reported 98-foot length.



The Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society is planning to display the hull section this summer as it awaits definitive word on whether this is the ship that was once mocked as a “steam coffin.”

The *Savannah* was built in 1818 for Captain Moses Rogers and the Savannah Steam Ship Company. She was fitted with an auxiliary steam engine and paddlewheels in addition to her sails with the intention of being the first to make a transatlantic voyage under partial steam. The crew ultimately used engine power for a total of 80 hours on the 29-day trip from Savannah, Georgia, to Liverpool, England, or about 11 percent of the voyage.

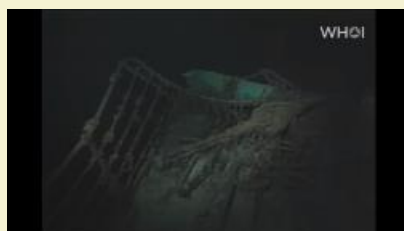
Issue #324 of *PowerShips* magazine is available now, featuring the following stories:

- Honoring our World War II Mariners
- Escape From Europe
- Up the Amazon
- My Time in a Southern Shipyard

Whether you're new to SSHSA or your membership has lapsed, it's not too late to come on board! Sign up or renew today by [clicking here](#) or calling our headquarters at (401) 463-3570. Don't miss out!

What you're missing on social media

If you don't follow us on social media, you may be missing out on a lot of exciting things going on at SSHSA. Click the icons and links below to check us out on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Tumblr](#), [YouTube](#) and [Pinterest](#) to stay up to date on all things #shiphistory.



Financial hardships after a fire forced the *Savannah's* owners to sell her engine in 1820, but she continued to work as a sailing packet between New York and Savannah until she ran aground off the coast of Long Island on November 5, 1821.

The wreckage had been observed by National Park Service staff prior to the storm, but the stormy weather further exposed the wreckage and moved the hull section further down the beach. Federal officials say they are consulting with experts in hopes to positively identify the ship, although they cautioned it may not be possible because of the overall number of wrecks in the area.

Caption: A 13 by 13 foot section of hull that officials believe may be from the *Savannah*, the first ship to cross the Atlantic under steam power (Photo: Maritime Executive, courtesy of Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society Executive Director Tony Femminella).

Join SSHSA and celebrate our success

SSHSA's Full Ahead! campaign is coming to a close, and we have millions of reasons to celebrate. In case you haven't heard, we have raised more than \$2 million that is being used to expand our education programs, continue to assess and catalog parts of our collections that are yet to be processed, make our maritime reference library available and open the museum to the public — all because of you!



To mark this momentous occasion, we are holding a special event on Saturday, April 22, to thank as many of you in person as we can. We are so excited to see everyone again, and a gathering is long overdue.

New *Titanic* footage released ahead of movie, sinking anniversary

It has been almost 38 years since the remains of the RMS *Titanic* were discovered lying on the ocean floor. Now, ship history buffs have a chance to see the vessel as she first appeared to researchers back in 1986.

Timed to coincide with the rerelease of the Academy Award-winning film, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) is debuting 80 minutes of rare video footage from the 1986 expedition to explore the famous wreck. The newly released video highlights the remarkable achievement by the team to bring iconic images of the ship back to the surface. [Click here to take a look.](#)

“More than a century after the loss of *Titanic*, the human stories embodied in the great ship continue to resonate,” said explorer, filmmaker, and ocean advocate James Cameron. “Like many, I was transfixed when *Alvin* and *Jason Jr.* ventured down to and inside the wreck. By releasing this footage, WHOI is helping tell an important part of a story that spans generations and circles the globe.”

The images are taken from a July 1986 expedition with a team from WHOI using the three-person research submersible *Alvin* and the newly developed remotely operated vehicle *Jason Jr.* Dr. Robert Ballard led both the 1985 discovery and 1986 return to the wreck site and was one of the passengers aboard *Alvin* when it dove on the wreckage. The trip marked the first time that humans laid eyes on the vessel since its ill-fated voyage in 1912.

Efforts to locate and salvage the *Titanic* began almost immediately after it sank, but technical limitations as well as the vast expanse of the search area in the North Atlantic made it impossible to locate the wreck. By 1985, WHOI had developed new imaging technology, including *Argo*, a camera sled that was towed from the research vessel *Knorr* and captured the first photographs the ship beneath more than 12,400 feet of water.

Photo: An image from the deck of the *Titanic* as seen by researchers who traveled to the wreck in 1986 (Photo: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution).

The dinner will take place along Narragansett Bay at the Harbor Lights Marina and Country Club, 150 Gray St., Warwick, Rhode Island. Tickets are \$95 per person and include a dinner buffet with three entrée options and a cash bar. [Click here to sign up and buy your tickets now.](#) This event has limited seating and may sell out!

Thanks again to all of our friends and donors who have made Full Ahead! a smashing success. We hope that this will be the first of many celebrations across the country, so keep your eyes peeled for more information.

Brazilian aircraft carrier scuttled despite environmental concerns

Environmental officials are decrying a decision by the Brazilian Navy to sink a decommissioned aircraft carrier off its coast after a plan to scrap the vessel in Turkey fell through.

Naval officials announced on February 3 that it had begun sinking the former *Sao Paulo* about 220 miles from the country's shoreline. And while it was expected to rest about three miles



deep and outside of any environmentally protected zones, critics say that the tons of asbestos and toxic materials on board will cause untold damage to the marine life in the area.

The sinking capped months of debate on what to do with the ship, which was initially supposed to be scrapped at Aliaga last September. As the ship was preparing to enter the Mediterranean Sea, the Turkish government withdrew permission to dock and accused officials of drastically underestimating the amount of toxic materials on board. A report provided by the Brazilian Navy estimated less than 10 tons of asbestos on board when the *Sao Paulo*'s sister ship, the *Clemenceau*, contained at least 600 tons.

Plans to turn the *Sao Paulo* into a museum ship were denied, and she spent months anchored at sea because she was denied entry at several ports around Brazil. The Navy said that her deteriorating condition likely meant

New destroyer to be named after Medal of Honor recipient

Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro announced last month that future Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer DDG-140 will be named USS *Thomas G. Kelley* after the retired Medal of Honor recipient.

Former Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer announced his intention to name a ship after Kelley, but had not officially assigned hull number. DDG-140 was appropriated in the fiscal year 2023 budget.

“It is with great admiration and great pride that I am announcing the naming of the DDG-140 after Captain (retired) Thomas Gunning Kelley,” Del Toro said. “May we all, especially the future men and women assigned to this ship, always be inspired by Kelley's brilliant leadership, bold initiative, and resolute determination.”

Kelley was born in 1939 and grew up in Boston. He graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in 1960 and was commissioned in the Navy. His early assignments as a surface warfare officer included time aboard USS *Pandemus* (ARL-18), USS *Davis* (DD-937), and USS *Stickell* (DD-888). Kelley then volunteered to serve in Vietnam as a lieutenant commanding River Assault Division 152.

On June 15, 1969, Kelley led river assault craft boats when they fell under attack. Kelley, while severely wounded, continued to protect and lead his men to safety. For this gallant effort, he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Despite his injuries, he continued his naval career and took on the positions of executive officer of USS *Sample* (DE-1048) and commanding officer of USS *Lang* (FF-1060). While serving, Kelley earned his master's degree in management from the Naval Post Graduate School and completed the Armed Forces Staff College course in Norfolk, VA. He retired from naval service as a captain after 30 years, ending his tour as the director of legislation in the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

After his military service, Kelley became the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services commissioner and was named secretary of the department in 2003. In 2011, Kelley retired from public service and focused on charitable pursuits. He is close with the Medal of Honor Society (previously serving as president), Holy Cross' O'Callahan Society, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Home Base

that she would have sunk on her own by the end of the month.

The ship was commissioned by the French Navy in 1963 and named *Foch*. She was sold to the Brazilian Navy in 2000, but suffered from a number of issues and never managed to operate for more than three months at a time without repairs or maintenance. She was decommissioned in 2018.

Caption: The Brazilian aircraft carrier *Sao Paulo* was sunk at sea earlier this month despite the presence of asbestos and other toxic materials (Photo: Air Data News).

Leading ocean carriers commit to electronic documentation

A consortium of ocean shipping companies is pledging to drastically reduce paperwork in an effort to save money and promote sustainable growth throughout the industry.

Members of the Digital Container Shipping Association announced this week that they will commit to a fully electronic bill of lading by 2030. One of the most important trade documents in container shipping, the bill of lading functions as a title document, a receipt for shipped goods and a record of agreed terms and conditions. Ocean carriers issue around 45 million bills of lading in a year.



The DCSA says that switching from physical paper bills is expected to save \$6.5 billion in direct costs for stakeholders and enable more than \$30 billion in annual global trade growth.

“This is an important step in the journey towards creating a digital standard of one of the most cost heavy and troublesome components in the shipping industry,” said Vincent Clerc, CEO of A.P. Moller-Maersk. “A fully digitized bill of lading enables a more seamless customer experience across the supply chain and in turn it will help democratize trade and reduce time and costs for all involved parties. The need for digitization in logistics is urgent, and the industry needs to speed up the process.”

Manual, paper-based processes are time-consuming, expensive and environmentally unsustainable for

program, which treats veterans and active military with post-traumatic stress disorder in partnership with the Boston Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital. He also serves on the board of directors of the USS Constitution Museum.

“It is a tremendous honor and I am truly humbled, especially as a Surface Warfare Sailor,” said Captain Thomas Kelley. “I trust that those who sail in this ship will be reminded of service to their shipmates and that they will be carrying on a tradition greater than themselves.”

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stakeholders along complex supply chains. Paper-based processes break down when bills of lading fail to arrive or cannot be manually processed in time. In contrast, digital processes enable data to flow instantly and securely, reducing delays and waste.

“With digitization gaining ground ever faster, it is important that the maritime industry continues to evolve and adapt by embracing new global standards and transaction efficiency,” said Jeremy Nixon, CEO of Ocean Network Express (ONE). “A significant acceleration in [electronic bill of lading] usage will pave the way for ever greater interoperability across global supply chains.

The DCSA is a nonprofit group founded by major ocean carriers to digitize and standardize the container shipping industry. Its members include MSC, Maersk, CMA CGM, Hapag-Lloyd, ONE, Evergreen, Yang Ming, HMM and ZIM.

Photo: The *Chastine Maersk* at sea. A.P. Moller-Maersk is one of several large shipping companies to commit to electronic bills of lading to save time and reduce its carbon footprint.

Litigation could force SS *United States* relocation

The SS *United States* could be on the move soon because of a rent dispute at the Philadelphia pier it has called home since 1996.

The *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported late last month that the ship’s landlord, Penn Warehousing & Distribution Inc., has filed suit in U.S. District Court to evict the ship and collect thousands in back rent that it claims it is due. The SS *United States*



States Conservancy filed a countersuit in response, and the case is scheduled for a jury trial this fall if an agreement can’t be reached.

According to the news outlet, the dispute is centered on a rent increase in August 2021 that doubled the daily docking rate from \$850 to \$1,700. Penn Warehousing said the increase was necessary because of rising maintenance costs, but the conservancy claimed that it violated a berthing agreement signed in 2011. As a

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result, the organization has continued to pay the original \$850 daily rate.

The SS *United States* was launched in 1951 and set the transatlantic speed record on her maiden voyage, a record she still holds today. She was designed by naval architect and marine engineer William Francis Gibbs, whose granddaughter, Susan Gibbs, is the president of the SS United States Conservancy.

The organization has explored several possible reuses since purchasing the ship from Norwegian Cruise Line in 2011. Crystal Cruises signed a purchase option in 2016 with the intention of returning her to service. However, a feasibility study showed that there were too many technical and commercial challenges to overcome. Since 2018, the conservancy has been linked with RXR Realty of New York City, which has expressed interest in developing the SS *United States* as a hotel and event center. The intention is to preserve the ship's profile and provide space for an on-board museum.

If forced to move, the conservancy told the *Philadelphia Inquirer* that it would take months to coordinate and cost thousands of dollars because the ship can no longer move on its own. The group has also discussed sinking the ship as an artificial reef if it were to run out of money.

Photo: The United States Lines' SS *United States* with tugs at Southampton (Photo: Braun Brothers Collection, SSHSA Archives).

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.

February 26

USS *Cobia* Diving Deeper Tour

1:00-4:00 PM

\$30 for members, \$35 for general admission; [click here to purchase](#)

Wisconsin Maritime Museum

Manitowoc, WI

www.wisconsinmaritime.org

February 28

The Lasting Legacy of Doris Miller, Pearl Harbor Hero

12:00-1:00 PM

Free

National Museum of the US Navy

Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.

www.history.navy.mil

March 9 to 12

Model Tugboat Show

Daily from 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
\$19 for adults and \$16 for children ages 4-17
Mystic Seaport Museum
Mystic, CT
www.mysticseaport.org

March 10

Civil War Lecture Series: Development of Confederate Ironclads
12:00-1:00 PM
Free to watch online; \$1 for nonmembers to attend in person
[Click here to sign up](#)
Mariners' Museum and Park
Newport News, VA
www.marinersmuseum.org

March 15

Steamship Lecture Series - The Lightship *Huron*
6:30 PM
Free for museum members, \$10 for nonmembers
Michigan Maritime Museum
South Haven, MI
www.michiganmaritimemuseum.org

March 29

50th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War ceremony
9:00 AM
Free
USS Midway Museum
San Diego, CA
www.midway.org

April 4

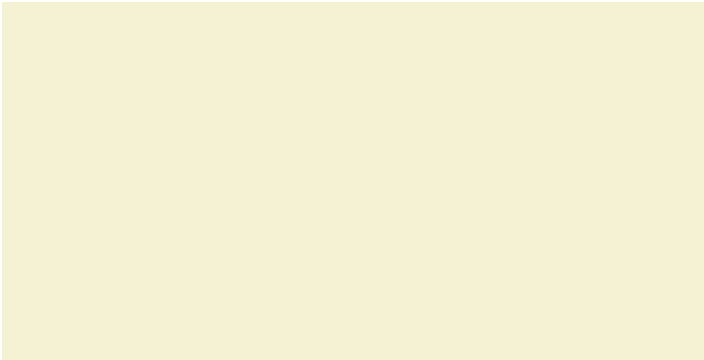
Exploring the RMS *Titanic* with historian Don Lynch
5:30-7:30 PM
\$15 for general admission; \$10 for Houston Maritime Center members
[Click here to sign up](#)
Shell Auditorium at Rice University
Houston, TX
www.houstonmaritime.org



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Bryan Lucier, Editor, *Ahoy!*

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