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## President's Column

## New exhibits at Ship History Center

Whether it's your first time in Rhode Island or just your latest trip to SSHSA headquarters, there's always something new to see at the Ship History Center. For those of you who might be considering a road trip this summer, think about stopping by to see two truly unique collections that are on display to the public for the first time ever.

The first is a collection of nine folk art ship models created by a gentleman named George Hawley. The size of the ships catches your eye almost immediately – some of them are more than 7 feet long – a fact that becomes more impressive when you find out that they are made primarily of paper. That's right, paper.

Built on a scale of 1 inch to 10 feet, the ships' basic frameworks are constructed of corrugated cardboard, manila folders and posterboard, with a bit of wood used in certain places on the decks. The models were mostly a retirement hobby for Hawley, now deceased, though his *Titanic* was a bit of a personal project. He was inspired by the death of his third cousin, Daniel Marvin, who was lost in the disaster while on his honeymoon.

The ships on display at SSHSA also include the *Leviathan*, *City of Paris*, *Franconia*, *Kaiser Wilhelm Der Grosse*, *Ile de France*, *City of Cleveland III*, *Berkshire*, and *Scotia*. Come see them up close!

Another interesting sight to see is our collection of Bassett-Lowke miniature ship models. Although largely known for railroad modeling, the company

Dear SSHSA Friends,

Thank you once again to everyone who joined us for our first fundraising dinner last month. It was great to have longtime members and new faces there as we toasted the *Queen Mary* in style, and I know the Board and the staff were thrilled to be able to show off all the wonderful things that are happening at our Ship History Center. Plans are already in the works for next year's dinner, so keep an eye out for details and make sure to tell all of your friends!

It was quite fitting that SSHSA chose the *Queen Mary* as the centerpiece of our first dinner. With just one year difference in age, it shows how both our organization and this magnificent vessel have stood the test of time, but also how both need to keep pushing for the future. Just as the *Queen Mary* is constantly reinventing itself to try and draw new audiences, SSHSA is taking some big leaps forward into territory the organization could only dream about a decade ago.

Opening the Ship History Center is just the first piece of the puzzle, but we need to continue to grow and utilize this resource. If you have the chance this summer, give the staff a call and set up an appointment to see it

began producing waterline ship models in 1908 that were used as training aids for the Navy and Air Force in wartime. As their popularity grew, Bassett-Lowke was sought out by large shipping companies, which commissioned them for models of their luxury liners for office displays.

Made out of wood and wire, SSHSA has 91 of these fantastic models representing more than 19 different lines. They were donated to us by the late Stephen Barrett Chase, a benefactor who had amassed an impressive collection of posters, ship models and maritime artwork before his untimely death in 1994. While the ships are only viewable at the Ship History Center right now, you can always see digital reproductions of the poster collection – collected throughout his career on some of his many trips overseas – in our online [Image Porthole](#).

We hope to see you soon. If you live in the area, we will be open to the public this **Saturday, June 18, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** After that we will be open by appointment for the rest of the summer. Just give us a call at (401) 463-3570 and we'll be waiting!

## House, Senate bills could boost maritime heritage funding

Congress is currently debating a new National Defense Authorization Act that could have a great effect on SSHSA and other organizations around the country focused on preserving maritime heritage.

The \$50,000 education grant recently received by SSHSA was provided by the National Parks Service through the Maritime Heritage Grant Program, with funds generated from the scrapping and sale of obsolete vessels from the Maritime Administration's National Defense Reserve Fleet. The intent is to use this money to repair and restore an array of sites integral to America's maritime history and help launch a variety of historic exhibits, education programs and online resources.

However, it is estimated that the Maritime Administration still retains about \$6.1 million in funds that could be dedicated toward preserving the country's heritage. House and Senate members are currently considering an amendment

firsthand. And if you live in the area, think about setting some time aside to come in and volunteer and attend our programs for Membership Saturdays. Together we can take SSHSA to the next level and share our mission to record, preserve, and disseminate the history of engine-powered vessels.

Sincerely,

Mary L. Payne, President

## Still Time To Renew Your Membership

Summer is almost here, which means there is a new issue of *PowerShips* just around the corner. Check your membership status today and make sure you don't get left at the dock!

You can join or renew instantly by calling us at (401) 463-3570 or online by [clicking here](#). We look forward to welcoming you back on board.

## See Photos, Stories, and More on Social Media

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.

to the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act that would restore the program to full funding, with a decision expected to be made soon. If you believe that this money should be released without delay, then please contact your Senators and Representatives to let them know where you stand. [Click here to see a sample letter](#).

Ultimately, this is a decision that could influence 1,000 nonprofit maritime organizations in 40 states. Don't miss out on a chance to let your voice be heard in this important debate.

**Photo: Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian, Senator Jack Reed, SSHSA Executive Director Matthew Schulte and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse announce a \$50,000 education grant for SSHSA. (Bob Hughes)**

## PowerShips contributor, membership news sought

Ever dream about being published in *PowerShips* magazine? Well here is your chance. SSHSA is looking for someone to write our New England & Eastern Canada regional column following the passing of Captain Bill Frappier last year. While these are large shoes to fill – Captain Frappier had written for the magazine for more than 35 years – we are hoping that there is someone who is eager to take up his legacy and help us share the news and notes from the Northeast with a worldwide audience. You don't need to be a professional writer to apply, just someone with a love for maritime history. Those who are interested should contact *PowerShips* editor Jim Pennypacker at [editor@sshhsa.org](mailto:editor@sshhsa.org) for more information.

Even if you're not interested in writing, there are still ways that you can contribute to one of our many publications. We are looking to start a section of the *Telegraph* that would outline some of the great things that are going on with our members around the country. Whether you've won an award or helped preserve a historic vessel, feel free to send any news that you want to share with your fellow SSHSA members to [info@sshhsa.org](mailto:info@sshhsa.org) (please enter Membership Corner in the subject line), and we will do our best to fit it in to the next edition.

## Help SSHSA meet the Dibner Challenge

While our recent federal grant is a step in the right direction, there is still much more work to be done to assure that SSHSA can continue sharing the history of engine-powered vessels for another 80 years. That's why we are excited to announce that we have been offered a challenge by the Dibner Family Trust to raise \$300,000 dedicated to the implementation of our educational program. **The prize for reaching this goal is a matching gift of**

"Like" SSHSA on Facebook to read about current and historical maritime events and updates on SSHSA's new headquarters.

"Follow" SSHSA on Twitter and receive tweets on historical and current maritime events.

"Add" SSHSA as a friend on Instagram to view pictures of new finds in the archives and images of SSHSA staff and volunteers at events and conferences.

"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.

**New SSHSA  
Members**

## **\$100,000 for our endowment that will help create a more sustainable future for SSHSA and all our efforts.**

We realize that this is a considerable task, which is why we are asking our members to get us across the finish line by donating or introducing us to friends and colleagues that have the means to assist us in meeting the Dibner Challenge. For the time that it takes to make a phone call or send an email to someone who shares our love of maritime history, you may be able to help us forge a relationship that will put us over the top.

All of the funds that we raise will be dedicated to the implementation of our educational program, which includes increasing our online virtual museum that is available worldwide. By continuing the digitization of our archives, we are able to help educators share the most engaging parts of our collections with their students, support historians and passionate maritime enthusiasts, and aid genealogy researchers in their online work.

Meeting the Dibner Challenge will not only help us preserve our past, but protect our future. To recommend a potential donor, please contact SSHSA Advancement Officer Elaine Haytko at [ehaytko@sshhsa.org](mailto:ehaytko@sshhsa.org).

## **Library catalogue, George Sharp collection now online**

In addition to making improvements in and around the Ship History Center over the last several months, we have been working tirelessly to expand some of the offerings we have online at [www.sshsa.org](http://www.sshsa.org). New this year is an online library catalogue that includes more than 5,000 volumes about shipping lines, specific vessels of military and merchant classes, war, immigration and genealogy. There are also periodicals, reference materials on engineering, the merchant marine, and shipping registers. Researching a particular topic? Take a look through our catalogue and see if we have that missing source that you have been looking for.

Also available online is a newly digitized collection of drawings from our George Sharp collection. Sharp is a famous naval architecture firm that is credited with designing nearly 1,500 vessels - including the *NS Savannah*, the *Milwaukee*

*Clipper* and several of the Staten Island ferries - and also created the standard design that was used in the construction of 534 Victory Ships.

## Welcome aboard!

Mr. Alan S. Bomar  
Mr. Robert Bonnem  
Mr. Ford Brockman  
Mr. Donald Canney  
Mr. Michael Cataldo  
Mrs. Ruth Clark  
Mr. Tracy P. Clark  
Mr. Christopher DeCamps  
Mr. Christopher DeSessa  
Mr. Gregory Donnellon  
Mr. Tom Doremus  
Mr. John E. Doubet  
Mr. Michael Dudas  
Mr. Robert Eadie  
Mr. Mark Freeman  
Mr. Michael Greene  
Mr. Frank Higbie  
Mr. Kevin Holland  
Mr. Don Holmgren  
Mrs. Anne Ilacqua  
Mr. Tom Keesling  
Ms. Ruth Kester  
Mr. Timothy Kiely  
Mr. Stephen King  
Mr. Dan King  
Mr. Albert Klyberg  
Mr. Robert Lambert  
Mr. Craig Lewis  
Mr. Malcolm Long  
Mr. Nicholas D. Lowry  
Mr. William Lynn  
Mr. Hugh C. MacKay  
Mr. Webster S. Martin  
CAPT John Maytum  
Mr. Christopher McCarty  
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Mr. Vito Powylan  
Mr. Kenneth Reis  
Mr. Blane Rhoten  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ricker  
Mr. Fred Santaniello  
Mr. Rolf Schneider  
Mr. Tom Sepe and  
Ms. Deb Aiken  
Mr. Todd Sposato  
Mr. Michael R. Strelie

There are more than 120 conceptual interior and exterior drawings that were recently digitized and loaded into the [Image Porthole](#). Simply enter "George Sharp" in the search bar to get started!

## Attention Members and Researchers: Surplus Registers are Still Available

We still have a great collection of surplus American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) Records, Lloyds Registers, and Merchant Vessels of the United States records available. These registers are for educational use and are available to our members for **\$10.00-\$25.00 per register/volume, plus shipping and handling costs**. The proceeds from these registers will go directly towards maintaining our collections and library. The condition of the volumes varies from fair to excellent.

### Available Registers:

**ABS Records-** 1949, 1951, 1952, 1954, 1957

**Merchant Vessels of the United States-** 1891, 1892, 1899, 1930, 1932, 1935, 1938, 1941, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1952, 1953-1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964

### Lloyds Registers-

1922-1923 (Volume 2)  
1924-1925 (Volume 2)  
1929-1930 (Volume 2)  
1930-1931 (Volume 2)  
1931-1932 (Volume 1)  
1933-1934 (Volume 1)  
1933-1934 (Volume 2)  
Annals of Lloyds Register 1934  
1934-1935 (Volume 2)  
1935-1936 (Volume 1)  
1937-1938 (Volume 2)  
1938-1939 (Volume 2)  
1940-1941  
1946-1947  
1947-1948 (Appendix)  
1949 (Appendix)  
1950-1951 (Volume 1, A-L)  
1950 (Appendix)



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Mr. Bob Weston  
Mr. Alexander White  
Mr. John H. White Jr.  
Mr. Mitchell Wolfson Jr.  
Mr. Donald Yokum  
Mr. Robert Zinman

## Captains' Circle

A big Thank You to our  
Captains' Circle members for  
their membership and support!

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1951 (Appendix)  
1952-1953 (Volume 1, A-L)  
1952-1953 (Volume 2, M-Z)  
1953-1954 (Volume 1, A-L)  
1953-1954 (Volume 2, M-Z)  
1954-1955 (Volume 1, A-L)  
1954-1955 (Volume 2, M-Z)  
1956-1957 (Volume 1)  
1956-1957 (Volume 2, Appendix)  
1956-1957 (Volume 3, List of Shipowners)  
1957-1958 (Volume 1)  
1957-1958 (Volume 2, Appendix)  
1957-1958 (Volume 3, List of Shipowners)  
1957-1958 (Volume 4, Directory)  
1958-1959 (Volume 1)  
1958-1959 (Volume 2, Appendix)  
1958-1959 (Volume 3, List of Shipowners)  
1958-1959 (Volume 4, Directory)  
1959-1960 (Volume 2, Appendix)  
1959-1960 (Volume 3, List of Shipowners)  
1960-1961 (Volume 1)  
1960-1961 (Volume 2, Appendix)  
1960-1961 (Volume 3, List of Shipowners)  
1960-1961 (Volume 4, Directory)  
1961-1962 (Volume 1)  
1961-1962 (Volume 2, Appendix)  
1961-1962 (Volume 3, List of Shipowners)  
1961-1962 (Volume 4, Directory)  
1962-1963 (Volume 2, Appendix)  
1962-1963 (Volume 3, List of Shipowners)  
1963-1964 (Volume 1)  
1963-1964 (Volume 2, Appendix)  
1963-1964 (Volume 3, List of Shipowners)  
1963-1964 (Volume 4, Directory)  
1964-1965 (Volume 1)  
1964-1965 (Volume 2, Appendix)  
1964-1965 (Volume 3, List of Shipowners)  
1965-1966 (Volume 1)  
1965-1966 (Volume 2, Appendix)  
1965-1966 (Volume 3, List of Shipowners)  
1965-1966 Supplement  
1966-1967 (Volume 1, A-L)  
1966-1967 (Volume 2, M-Z)  
1966-1967 (Volume 3, List of Shipowners)  
1968-1969 (A-L)  
1968-1969 (M-Z)  
1968-1969 (List of Shipowners)  
1968-1969 (Appendix)  
1969-1970 (A-L)  
1969-1970 (M-Z)  
1969-1970 (List of Shipowners)  
1969-1970 (Appendix)  
1970-1971 (A-L)  
1970-1971 (M-Z)  
1970-1971 (List of Shipowners)

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1970-1971 (Appendix)  
1971-1972 (A-L)  
1971-1972 (M-Z)  
1971-1972 (Appendix)  
1972-1973 (A-L)  
1972-1973 (M-Z)  
1972-1973 (List of Shipowners)  
1972-1973 (Appendix)  
1973-1974 (A-L)  
1973-1974 (M-Z)  
1973-1974 (List of Shipowners)  
1973-1974 (Appendix)  
1974-1975 (A-L)  
1974-1975 (M-Z)  
1974-1975 (List of Shipowners)  
1975-1976 (A-L)  
1975-1976 (M-Z)  
1975-1976 (List of Shipowners)  
1975-1976 (Appendix)  
1976-1977 (A-L)  
1976-1977 (M-Z)  
1976-1977 (List of Shipowners)  
1976-1977 (Appendix)  
1977-1978 (List of Shipowners)  
1977-1978 (Appendix)  
1977-1978 (Register of Offshore Units, Submersibles, and Diving Systems)  
1979-1980 (A-K)  
1979-1980 (L-Z)  
1979-1980 (Register of Offshore Units, Submersibles, and Diving Systems)  
1981-1982 (Register of Offshore Units, Submersibles, and Diving Systems)  
1981-1982 (Register of Ships Subsidiary Sections)  
1982-1983 (A-G)  
1982-1983 (H-O)  
1982-1983 (P-Z)  
1982-1983 (List of Shipowners)  
1982-1983 (Register of Offshore Units, Submersibles, and Diving Systems)

If you are interested in these registers, please call us at (401) 463-3570, or e-mail us by [clicking here](#).

## Coming up in *PowerShips*

The next issue of *PowerShips* is in production now and will be mailed in mid-July. There's still time to [renew your membership](#) today - make sure you don't miss it!

Here are some highlights for the Summer 2016 issue:

### **Passenger Liners through the Golden Gate**

Jim Shaw offers an engrossing account of the time when San Francisco was the premier port for passenger liners on the West Coast, when vessels such

Mr. John J. Crowley, Jr.  
Mr. Antone DeGerlia  
Mr. Andrew W. Edmonds  
Mr. Andrew Edmonds  
Mr. Jonathan Ely  
Mr. Elmer Engman  
Mr. Larry Glenwright  
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Mr. G. Thomas Tranter  
Mr. Richard Vanaria  
Mr. Stephen Weaver  
Mr. Eric Wiberg  
Mr. Gregory Williams

as *Lurline*, *Canberra*, *Santa Maria* and *President Wilson* sailed to and from Hawaii, Australia, South America and the Orient.

### **The Grand Saloon and Victorian Propriety**

Doug Hart enlightens us with a delightful history of the major public rooms on 18th century British North Atlantic liners – Dining Saloon, Smoking Room, and Drawing Room – that separated the genteel from the vulgar.

### **The *Stella Solaris***

In "Lives of the Liners," William Miller takes us back to the great and grand age of Atlantic liners, where passengers took magically memorable summertime trips to and from Europe. Miller highlights one of those ships – the Greek-owned, blue-hulled *Stella Solaris*.

### **Remembering Grace Line's "M" Ships**

Captain Manny Aschemeyer introduces us to the *Santa Maria*, *Santa Mariana*, *Santa Magdalena* and *Santa Mercedes*. Built for the Grace Line in the early 1960s, the ships were both beautiful and practical. Nothing like them had ever operated on the maritime scene before.

### **Knots, Liberties and Lollipop Ships**

David Hendrickson offers a comprehensive history of the post-World War II cargo ships of the Alaska Steamship Company. December 2016 marks the 122nd anniversary of the founding of the company, which provided the principal sea link between Alaska and the lower 48 states.

### **Cuba, "So Near And Yet So Foreign"**

Francis Xavier Luca uses promotional materials from the Wolfsonian-Florida International University's library to provide a picturesque glimpse into an era of easy access to Cuba from the United States by ship, when travel to the island was simple for American tourists.

### **The Sinking of the *Andrea Doria* on July 26, 1956**

In this issue's Steamboat Bill Classic, originally published in Summer 2006, Ernest R. Melby, crew member of the USNS *Private William H. Thomas*, which was one of the first ships to arrive on the scene and assist in the rescue, writes of his memories of the event. Edited by Don Leavitt.



## Contact Us

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## Freighter Trips in the Caribbean – 1930s

Harry W. Shipps reminisces about the thrilling trips he took to the Caribbean with his parents in the 1930s on a variety of freighters, including SS *Atlántida*, SS *Caracas*, SS *Tivives*, SS *Colombia*, SS *Haiti*, SS *Hastings*, and SS *Quirigua*.

## Chapter News

### Delaware Valley

The Delaware Valley Chapter will hold a Picnic Social on **Sunday, June 26**, at the Red Dragon Canoe Club in New Jersey. Contact Chapter Chairman Steve Loveless at [sloveless1959@gmail.com](mailto:sloveless1959@gmail.com) or 215-495-8889 for more information.

A boat ride circumnavigating Staten Island will be held in conjunction with The National Lighthouse Museum on **Sunday, July 10**. Participants will see lighthouses, hidden bird sanctuaries and ship graveyards. Reservation for the trip must be made through the National Lighthouse Museum at [www.lighthousemuseum.org](http://www.lighthousemuseum.org), and members will meet for dinner afterward at a restaurant overlooking the Kill Van Kull.

On **Sunday, July 24**, there will be a boat ride aboard the historic 1930s vintage fireboat *John J. Harvey* with views of the Cunard Line flagship *Queen Mary 2* in New York Harbor. Space is limited, and reservations are required. Contact Steve Loveless to sign up or for more information.

### Hampton Roads

The Hampton Roads Chapter is looking for volunteers to assist in running the chapter. If you are interested, please contact Elizabeth Fletcher, Chapter Chairwoman, at [efletcher11@cox.net](mailto:efletcher11@cox.net).

### Southern California

The Southern California Chapter met **May 7** on board the RMS *Queen Mary*. Bruce Vancil gave an updated version of his “History of Dining at Sea” slide show and Dr. Nelson Arnstein shared some amazing telephoto images of the *Queen Mary* taken from across the channel using some advanced photo equipment.

The Chapter's next meeting will be on board the *Queen Mary* on **Saturday, August 6**, at 1 p.m. in the Caronia Room. Planning is also underway for the annual Fall Tea on **Saturday, November 5**. All persons interested in maritime history or just ships in general are welcome at the SoCal Chapter meetings, and refreshments are served.

The SoCal Chapter produces a journal/newsletter, *Ocean Times*, with several maritime history/current articles. It covers all aspects of powered vessels, both new and old, from early steamships to turbines, motorships, freighters, passenger ships, etc. This month's issue features the second part of the 2015

Cruise Ships Year in Review, as well as a personal recollection by Shawn Dake on Princess Cruises' 50th anniversary voyage.

Contact Jim Shuttleworth for Chapter information at [Jimpinxit@gmail.com](mailto:Jimpinxit@gmail.com) or (909) 595-6655. Yearly dues are \$15 per individual, \$20 per family (or for multiple persons at same address).

### **Golden Gate**

The Golden Gate Chapter will have a field trip to the USS Hornet Aircraft Carrier Museum on **Saturday, June 18**, at 1 p.m. at the ship's berth in Alameda Point, the former Alameda Naval Air Station. Admission is \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors and military personnel. For questions, contact the museum at (510) 521-8448 or Chapter President Norman Freitag at (510) 276-7520.

**For more information on SSHSA Chapter meetings and events, please [click here](#).**

*The Telegraph* is the quarterly electronic newsletter for members and friends of Steamship Historical Society of America. It is produced in March, June, September, and December.

Bryan Lucier, Editor, *The Telegraph*