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September 2015

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 3

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President's Column

The Loss of our friend, Dennis Hale

January 23, 1940-September 2, 2015

Dennis Hale, the lone survivor of one of the Great Lakes' most deadly shipwrecks, a longtime SSHSA member, and our keynote speaker during ShiPosium 2014, passed away on September 2, 2015 after succumbing to cancer. He was 75 years old.

When Dennis Hale was 26 years old, he boarded the *Daniel J. Morell* for her last trip of the season in 1966. Hale served as a watchman inside the pilot house as the freighter was heading north on a three-day trip for Taconic, Minnesota, to pick up a load of iron ore. The freighter encountered 35-foot waves and winds close to 60 miles per hour off the coast of Port Hope, Michigan. The ship couldn't withstand the onslaught and broke in two.

As the vessel sank, Hale and three of his crewmates climbed into a small life raft hoping to be rescued, but his crewmates froze to death beside him before a US Coast Guard helicopter spotted their raft, 38 hours after their ordeal began.

Dennis spent several days in recovery in a hospital in Harbor Beach, Michigan, but spent many more years trying to come to terms with the reality of being the sole survivor of 29 crew members. Later in life, he enjoyed travelling and telling his story, which he viewed as a kind of therapy. In 2010, he wrote a memoir about his survival and rescue titled *Shipwrecked: Reflections of the Sole Survivor*. Dennis felt that by sharing his story, it gave his life a sense of purpose. Hale used his speaking engagements as a way of dealing with the experience and keeping the memory of his shipmates alive.

Earlier this year, Dennis was featured prominently in the documentary, "Graveyard of the Great Lakes: A Shipwreck Hunter's Quest to Discover the Past," which debuted at the Freep Film Festival in Detroit, Michigan. Dennis attended and spoke on a panel after the screening, along with David Trotter, a

Following in the footsteps of those who have come before me, I am pleased to now take on the role of president after serving as a board member of SSHSA for the last seven years.

I'd like to thank Immediate Past-President Erik Ryan for his service during the past transitional year.

As members and supporters, we can all be proud of our new Ship History Center in Warwick, Rhode Island which shows the enormous depth of our archives, collections and library – significant history and offerings to the maritime community as SSHSA thrives through our 80th year. We invite you to visit the Center in person and via the web.

I'd also like to thank the entire SSHSA Board of Directors who contribute their time and talents to continually refine and further the mission of SSHSA and shape the future of this wonderful organization.

The Executive Committee is especially important in all aspects of our growth and development. Officers for 2015-2016 are: Vice Presidents, Barry Eager, Nick Langhart and Larry Miller; Secretary, Terry Tilton; and Treasurer, Bob Hughes.

I extend a welcome to our newest board members, Eric

shipwreck hunter who discovered the *Morrell's* location in 1979.

Dennis was the recipient of SSHSA's Samuel Ward Stanton Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2014.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara, children, Cindi Titch, Katherine Scaife, stepchildren Jon C. Robinson and Melissa LaMar, and seven grandchildren. The family held a private funeral on September 4th, and a public memorial for Dennis will be held at a future date.

In David Trotter's words, "Dennis was a very unique man and I admired his ability to tell others his story. He certainly was a survivor and fought with all his energy to beat the cancer. He now belongs to Great Lakes history."

Join us in historic Philadelphia

Join SSHSA board members and friends in historic Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on Saturday, October 10th, for dinner and good cheer at:

City Tavern Restaurant
138 South Second Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

6:00PM- Cocktails and Reception
7:00PM- Four-course dinner

Speaker: Captain Arthur Sulzer
"Maritime Education in the 21st Century"

\$85.00 per person

Reservations required, space is limited.

If you would like to attend, please reply by calling our headquarters at (401) 463-3570 by Monday, September 28th.

Rhode Island Updates

Wiberg and Don Leavitt, who have been contributors to *PowerShips*.

We have much to accomplish and look forward to connecting directly with you through several new initiatives you will hear more about in the future. We want to say “thank you” for your membership and support, and we invite you to take the time to share your thoughts with us about your interests in SSHSA’s future. Our new Ship History Center affords us many opportunities to schedule monthly member gatherings, presentations, and to connect with you directly. This is the new SSHSA.

Sincerely,

Mary L. Payne, President

Membership Renewals are on the horizon

For many of our members, membership renewal season is quickly approaching. For those whose membership is lapsing at the end of the year, you will be receiving a membership renewal notice in the mail.

Do you want to beat us to the punch and renew early? You may renew your membership by calling us at (401) 463-3570 or online by [clicking here](#). We look forward to welcoming you back aboard.

See Photos, Stories, and More on Social Media

On **Wednesday, September 16th**, SSHSA's Research and New Media Coordinator, Astrid Drew, will give a presentation about our Society and our varied maritime collections at the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association's annual meeting. The meeting will begin at **7:00PM** at the **Jamestown Library at 26 North Road, Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835**, and is free and open to the public.

For more information, please call the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association at (401) 423-7280 or visit their website by [clicking here](#).

Collaboration and Networking

We are excited to announce that we have recently joined the Alliance of Rhode Island Historical Associations, a voluntary alliance to foster cooperation and share expertise among Rhode Island’s historical associations. To learn more about the Alliance, please [click here](#).

We are also excited to announce our new reciprocal membership with the Warwick Historical Society, located in close proximity to our headquarters in Warwick, Rhode Island. Warwick Historical Society has similar beginnings to our own Society-- it was established in 1932, and until 1965, met periodically in libraries, grange halls, and private homes. In 1965, they learned that the John Waterman

Arnold House (built in 1785) was scheduled to be demolished by the city due in part to its rundown condition. The members approached the owners of the property and were granted the deed of ownership. Between 1965 and 2007, the Arnold House underwent a number of restoration projects. In 1972, the House was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been the headquarters of the Warwick Historical Society since then. The Arnold House is the only early historic building in Warwick open to the public at regular hours weekly throughout the year.

As part of our reciprocal membership, SSHSA members are welcome to visit the John Waterman Arnold House on Wednesdays from 11:00AM-2:00PM, and the second Saturday of each month from 11:00AM-2:00PM. To learn more about

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.

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,

the Warwick Historical Society, please [click here](#).

(Above images: Lighthouse Watercolor by Margaret Graham Kranking, Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association and John Waterman Arnold House, TripAdvisor.com)

2015 World Maritime Technology Conference to be Held in Rhode Island

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](#).

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- 1890, 1891, 1892, 1899, 1915, 1930, 1932, 1935, 1938, 1941, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1950, 1952, 1953-1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964

Lloyds Registers-
1919-1920 (Volume 2)
1922-1923 (Volume 2)
1924-1925 (Volume 2)
1929-1930 (Volume 2)

events, and meetings, and scans of images from SSHSA's photo archives.

New SSHSA Members

Welcome aboard!

Mr. Joe Attura
Mr. William Avery
Mr. Hans Bach
Mr. Alan Baer
Mr. Harold Baker
Mr. Dave Baskin
Mr. James Beckham
Mr. Sam Bejach
Mr. Richard P. Bertolf
Mr. Sidney Bleeker
Mr. Edward Bohan
Mr. Charles Boie
Mr. Will Bolin
Mr. Roy P. Bower
Mr. John Hickey Burnham
Mr. Hugh Cadzow
CAPT Gene M. Cameron
Mr. Jerry Cesak
Mr. Henry Cooper
Mr. Eric Cutler
Mr. John Danner
CAPT Ted Degarmo
Mr. Eleftherios Demetriades
Mr. Wayne Fletcher
Mr. James Flynn
Mr. Joseph R. Frick, Sr.
Mr. Nathaniel Gass
LCDR David Hall, USN (Ret.)
Mr. Clifford Hart, Sr.
Mr. Ernest Howard
Mr. John Hurst
Mr. Joe Hussey
Mr. Edward Ives-Keeler
Mr. Gus Johnson
Mr. Robert G. Joy
Mr. Colin Kelly
Mr. Craig Kenneck
Mr. John Lake
Mr. W. Maehlmann
Mr. John Maloney
Ms. Susan Markowitz
Mr. Tim McCarthy
Mr. Martin McClure
Mr. Thomas McGraw
Mr. Roger Moore

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)
1936-1937 (Volume 1)
1937-1938 (Volume 2)
1938-1939 (Volume 2)
1940-1941
1946-1947
1947-1948 (Appendix)
1948-1949 (Volume 1, A-L)
1949 (Appendix)
1950-1951 (Volume 1, A-L)
1950 (Appendix)
1951 (Appendix)
1951-1952 (Volume 1, A-L)
1951-1952 (Volume 2, M-Z)
1952 (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)
1955-1956 (Volume 1)
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)

Muskegon Community College
 Mr. Michael Newman
 Mr. Alex Nides
 Mr. Thomas L. Pryzblinski
 Governor Gina Raimondo
 Mr. Doug Rombough
 Mr. Fred Rossi
 Mr. Bruce Rowe
 Mr. John L. Schiavone
 Mr. David Scott
 Mr. Paul Shepard
 Mr. David M. Sink
 Mr. Lawrence Smith
 Mr. Norm Smith
 Mr. Vaughn Snook
 SS Red Oak Victory
 Mr. Joseph B. Stackpole
 CAPT G.D. Strathearn
 Mr. David Stromswold
 Mr. Paul D. Sullivan
 Mr. Scott Van Nederynen
 Ventura County Maritime
 Museum
 Mr. Bruce Walter
 Warwick Historical Society
 Mr. Merritt Webb
 Mr. Stephen Wheeler
 Mr. William L. White, II
 Williams County Public Library

Captains' Circle

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

Commodore (\$500)

Mr. Charles T. Andrews
 Mr. Preston B. Baker
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Eberle
 Mr. and Mrs. William Edwards
 Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Ferguson
 Mr. Robert J. Golden
 Mr. John B. Henry
 Mr. Murray Kilgour
 Mr. John Mahoney
 Mr. Ralph S. McCrea
 Mr. William M. McLin & Mr.
 Samuel J. McKeon
 Dr. Laurence Miller
 National Iron and Steel Heritage
 Museum
 Mr. Richard Palmer
 CAPT & Mrs. Roland R. Parent

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)
 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 (A-G)
 1981-1982 (H-O)
 1981-1982 (P-Z)
 1981-1982 (Register of Offshore Units, Submersibles, and Diving Systems)
 1981-1982 (Register of Ships Subsidiary Sections)

Ms. Mary L. Payne
Mr. Richard Rabbett
Mr. Thomas C. Ragan
Mr. Thomas Reed
Mr. David Ruebsamen
Mr. Erik Ryan
Mr. William A. Schell
Mr. Paul Shepard
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Shuttleworth
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Smith
Mr. Douglas A. Tilden
CAPT and Mrs. Terry Tilton, USN (Ret.)
Mr. Terence Turner
CAPT Robert F. Wasson, Jr., CPA
Mr. Peregrine White

Commander (\$300)

Mr. James Brandmueller
Mr. Odd A. Brevik
CAPT Gene M. Cameron
Mr. William D. Comings, Jr.
CAPT Robertson Dinsmore
Mr. William W. Donnell
Dr. Clive Dudley, D.D.
CAPT Kenneth M. Graham
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn P. Hayes
Mr. Neil E. Jones
Mr. H. F. Lenfest
CAPT Warren McDonald, USCGR, (Ret.)
Mr. John N. Park Jr.
CAPT Dave Pickering
Mr. William S. Reid
Mr. Roy C. Rose
Mr. Donn R. Spear
Mr. Kent Strobel

Mariner (\$200)

Mr. Ronald Amos
Mr. Gino Arrue
Mr. Joseph Bains
Mr. Thomas Barrett
Mr. Richard L. Barwis, IV
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Bellafiore
Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Bieser
Mr. Stephen Bird
Mr. Peter Brix
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Caldera
Mr. John Cameron, Jr.
Mr. Gabriel Caprio

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](#).

Get Well Soon, Bill Barber

We recently received word that our Southwest Pacific Regional Editor, William G.T. Barber, is recovering from a fall. We wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to reading his column in the upcoming issue of *PowerShips*.

Coming up in *PowerShips*

The next issue of *PowerShips* will be mailed in mid-October. [Renew your membership](#) today if you have not yet done so to ensure you receive a copy.

Here are highlights for the Fall 2015 Issue of *PowerShips*:

The Late, Great Norway

In "Lives of the Liners," William Miller sits with former staff captain Cato Christensen, and together they recall the story of one of the greatest ocean liners of all time, the *Norway*. She was the world's first mega-cruise liner, the longest passenger ship afloat for many years, and was, of course, the illustrious *France* in her previous life.

Steel Ships at Pascagoula

Seventy-five years ago a large steel cargo ship was completed at a new shipyard in Pascagoula, Mississippi. The shipyard, a venture started by Ingalls Iron Works of Birmingham, Alabama, would eventually become one of the largest shipyards in the world, Ingalls Shipbuilding. Terry Tilton offers an engaging story of the early years of Ingalls and the ships that made the company a huge success.

Remembering the Eastland

CAPT Eric Christensen, USCG (Ret), reminds us of the lasting legacy of the *Eastland* – July 24, 2015, marked 100 years since the capsizing of this passenger steamer. With the loss of 844 souls – 841 passengers and 3 crew – the *Eastland* disaster ranks as one of the greatest losses of life in U.S. maritime history.

CAPT Gerard P. Carroll
 CAPT Michael Cicalese
 Mr. David P. Clarendon
 Mr. Charles W. Clarke
 CAPT John M. Cox
 Mr. John J. Crowley, Jr.
 Mr. Richard W. Curtis, Jr.
 Mr. Patrick Dacey
 Dr. Hillary Don
 Mr. Andrew W. Edmonds
 Mr. Jonathan Ely
 CAPT David Erickson
 Mr. John F. Gibson, III
 Mr. Robert A. Haslun
 Mr. Alexander G. Hedin
 Mr. Albert R. Hinckley, Jr.
 Mr. Carl R. Nold
 Mr. Buell Hollister
 Mr. Timothy J. Kelly
 Mr. Nicholas Langhart
 Mr. Stephen Lash
 Mr. Reginald Lewington
 Mr. Gary Maehl
 Mr. James P. Martin
 Captain Brian McAllister
 Mr. Daniel L. McCoy
 Captain Ronald J. Meiczinger
 Mr. Harry Meyer
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 Mr. Brian L. Norden
 Mr. Oscar J. Olson, Jr.
 Oregon Maritime Museum
 Mr. Hollis S. Paige
 Mr. Richard Potter
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 Dr. Victor H. Rubino
 Mr. John W. Schumann
 Mr. Bruce C. Seibel
 Mr. Walter A. Shields
 Mr. Mark Snider
 Mr. John O. Snyder
 Mr. Alexander Sway
 Mr. G. Thomas Tranter
 CAPT John S. Tucker
 Mr. William T. Van Wagner
 Mr. Richard Vanaria
 Mr. Stephen Weaver
 Mr. Eric Wiberg
 Mr. Hubert Wicki
 Mr. Gregory Williams

Contact Us

Pilotage Aboard the *Pacific Scout*

Stephen Duff describes the role of pilot boats, whose existence and service are vital but which dwell in a remote corner of the public mind. His visit to *Pacific Scout* gives us an unusual window (or porthole) into this little-known area of marine activity.

Some Mediterranean Exotics and Ships as War Refugees

Larry Miller shows us some brochures that feature a number of exotic and long-forgotten liners of the past, including Dollar Line's *President Wilson* and *President Lincoln*, Home Lines' *Brasil* and Gydnia America Line's *Sobieski*.

Night Boat

In this *Steamboat Bill* Classic edited by Don Leavitt, author Earl C. Haring writes of his nights spent with his father on a creaking side-wheeler. He fondly reminisces about his introduction to the Hudson River on the Citizens' Line steamer *City of Troy*, around 1904 or 1905. First published in *Steamboat Bill* in September 1951.

2015 SSHSA Award Winners

We officially announce our 2015 Award Winners, including the SS *Berkeley* (Ship of the Year), the USS *Hoga* (Tug Boat of the Year), National Museum of the Great Lakes (The C. Bradford Mitchell Award), William M. Worden (The H. Graham Wood Award), and Peter Knego (The Samuel Ward Stanton Award).

Museum Profile: National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium

PowerShips highlights this Dubuque, Iowa, five-acre maritime history campus, which features the William Woodward Discovery Center, the National Rivers Hall of Fame, the Fred W. Woodward Riverboat Museum, the steamboat *William M. Black*, the Pfohl Boatyard, a wetland, and a refurbished train depot.

(Above image: SS *Norway*, Wikipedia.)

Chapter News

Golden Gate

Interested members of the Golden Gate Chapter will be taking a trip to the 2015 Fleet Week events on the San Francisco waterfront on **Saturday, October 10th**. Chapter members will meet at 1:00PM at either Pier 80 or Pier 30/32; pending public release of the names of the several ships open to public visitors. Pier 80 will also have a "Maritime Village" open that weekend. Contact Chapter President Norman Freitag for details after October 1st at (510) 276-7520, or at njfreitag@mail.com. For further information about Fleet Week, you may visit Fleet Week's website by [clicking here](#).

Please be advised that effective January 1, 2016, the Golden Gate Chapter's annual dues will increase from \$5.00 to \$6.00 for members in the United States, and from \$8.00 to \$9.00 for international members.

Hampton Roads

The Hampton Roads Chapter is looking for volunteers to assist in running the

**Steamship Historical
Society of America**

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Warwick, RI 02886
(401) 463-3570
www.sshsa.org

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Jim Pennypacker, Editor
PowerShips
editor@sshsa.org

Richard Barwis
Advertising Representative
richard@cornerstone-media.biz

chapter. If you are interested, please contact Elizabeth Fletcher, Chapter Chairwoman, at efletcher11@cox.net.

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.

Alissa Cafferky, Editor, *The Telegraph*