



custom house MARITIMES

WINTER 2020

MATTHEW MALE - My View from Great Gull Island - *Photos from the edge of The Sound* will be on view at the Custom House through March 29, 2020.



What's new for Winter 2020?

We have come to know **Matthew Male** as the unflappable leader of NLMS's annual volunteer trips to count tern nests & eggs out at Great Gull Island -- a hair-raising experience quite unlike anything else!

In 1973 at age 13, Matthew first visited nearby Great Gull, NY, a Research Station owned by The American Museum of Natural History. He has returned almost every year since. School vacations were spent working with the seabirds -- Common and Roseate Terns -- that nest on the 17-acre island. Matt continues to build and maintain a series of blinds that island researchers use to observe birds and wildlife. He monitors habitat manipulation and vegetation control on the island. Matthew is a consummate birder -- living for months during spring and fall migrations out on the island, alternately running bird walks and counts on the mainland, all the while photographing everything he sees. He posts his images to facebook, where we all can see the wildlife off just our shore and be amazed.

This winter, we invited Matthew to have a special exhibition of his photographs at the Custom House. The show opens on January 25. Matthew speaks about his work on Sunday, February 16, and we have a related talk about Monarch butterfly migration with **Ron Gagliardi** on Sunday, March 22.

In 2020, the Maritime Society is shifting its gaze to take in a wider view of our local environment: habitats, wildlife, fly ways, area fortifications (coming in April). Stay tuned for new programming posted at nlmaritimessociety.org.

~ **Saturday, January 25, 5-8 PM.** Opening: MATTHEW MALE - My View from Great Gull Island - *Photos from the edge of The Sound* at the Custom House.

~ **Sunday, February 16, at 2 PM.** Matthew Male will speak about his photographs and experiences on Great Gull Island in a talk at the Custom House.

~ **Sunday, March 22, 2 PM.** Monarch butterfly migration with Ron Gagliardi
Matthew's photos will be on view at the Custom House through March. ■



Top, Photographer Matthew Male at the Custom House.
Middle: Historian Sandi Brewster Walker will be part of the NLMS team at the NESS WHALE FAIR, Saturday, Feb. 15th from 11:00 am-3:00 pm in the New London library community room. FREE Bottom: We offer tours inside New London Harbor Lighthouse *all year long!* Set up a date by emailing nlmaritimemuseumdirector@gmail.com.

Twenty-One Years and Counting

A Brief History of the Frank L. McGuire Maritime Library and a Word About the Collections

by Brian Rogers, Librarian

From the very beginning of the Maritime Society in the 1980s, Lucille Showalter and the other founders wanted a library in the future Museum. As the Custom House underwent renovation a library committee chaired by Pamela McNulty made plans, and a Bodenwein grant allowed Board Chairman Ben Martin to design and install the bookcases that have housed the library since its 1998 dedication. The collection grew under Museum Director Melodie Foster and groundwork was laid for a future online catalog. After her arrival as Director in 2008 one of Susan Tamulevich's goals was to revive the then inactive library, and in 2009 this writer accepted an invitation to take it on. Associate Librarian Laurie Deredita came aboard the next year and since then we have been developing the collection, maintaining the new online catalog, and responding to requests that arrive from many parts of the country and overseas. We are grateful that Laurie has agreed to assume the responsibilities of librarian at the end of 2019, after which I will focus on outreach by preparing new online exhibits, adding to the eight published since 2016, which may be reached through the Maritime Society website.

At the annual meeting in November, 2019, a list of our archival "non-book" collections was distributed, and a version follows below. All but a few have been given since 2008 by donors wanting us to preserve historically valuable material. And while our traditional books, numbering upwards of 3,000 volumes, comprise a rich resource for local and regional maritime history, the non-book collections under our care add immeasurably to the usefulness of this library honoring the memory and manifold contributions of the late Frank Lewis McGuire.

December 2019 ■

1. New London customs collectors correspondence, 18th and 19th centuries
2. New London customs records on microfilm, 18th and 19th centuries (from the National Archives)
3. Robert Mills Folio: original renderings of the Custom House by its architect, 1833
4. Harold Cone Collection: handwritten extracts of events reported in New London papers, 19th/20th centuries and photo albums of the origins and early years of the U.S. Submarine Base
5. Archibald J. A. Chester, Jr. archive of newspaper publicity of Electric Boat submarine technology and launchings, 1950s to 1990s
6. Souvenir cachets issued by EB for launchings and commissionings, 1940s and 1950s
7. U.S. Maritime Service Officers School, Fort Trumbull, 1939-1946: Trumbullog magazine, photos, yearbooks
8. Dwight Lyman Fort Trumbull Collection: 1976 Bicentennial, history of the Fort, photos, documents and plans
9. Papers of Herman Pederson, a merchant mariner serving in the Pacific during World War II
10. Robert Bachman War of 1812 Archive: American and British documents collected for a planned book about New London and the war
11. Thames Shipyard & Tow Boat Collection: papers, photos, tugboats, yacht repairs, early to mid-20th century; album of 1970s articles in *The Day* about the company's struggles to buy the riverfront land it leased from the Coast Guard
12. Historic New London area postcards and the Norman Brouwer lighthouse postcard collection
13. T.A. Scott Co. S.S. Tasco log and photographs of salvaged vessels, early 20th century
14. Reynolds Beale pencil sketches of vessels in New London harbor
15. Robert Stewart Ship Model Collection, displayed on the library shelves
16. Ocean Beach scrapbooks of Lucille Showalter, from the origins of the park in 1938
17. Miscellaneous photographs, prints, maps, nautical charts and posters
18. U.S.S. Leviathan Veterans Assoc. records and F. O. Braynard's 6-vol. "The World's Greatest Ship"
19. Album of maritime postage stamps, first day covers and ephemera
20. Custom House renovation papers, 1983-1996
21. Custom House Maritime Museum publicity and programs, 2008-present

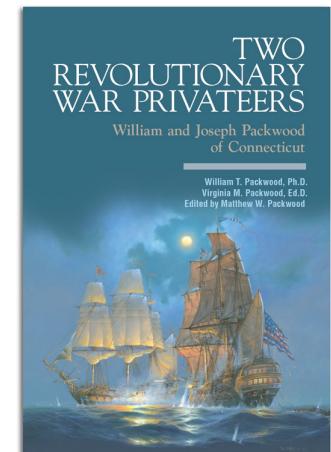
New in the Frank L. McGuire Library and in the MUSEUM SHOP

Two Revolutionary War Privateers, William and Virginia Packwood

William and Joseph Packwood of New London were Connecticut sea captains and privateers actively involved in the American Revolutionary War. They ran the trade route from the Thirteen Colonies to the Caribbean islands, secured large quantities of gunpowder and arms for use in the rebellion, and outfitted privateers to prey on and capture British ships. George Washington personally requested gunpowder from them for use by the Colonies; Benjamin Franklin sought France's release of one of their ships; and Alexander Hamilton ultimately denied reimbursement for the extensive losses they suffered in the War. Told in the Packwood captains' own words, this book offers a vivid picture of the American War for Independence from a maritime perspective.

Some time ago, co-author William Packwood discovered he was the direct descendant and namesake of William Packwood. The original William and his brother, Joseph, worked for Nathaniel Shaw, Naval Agent of the Colony of Connecticut in New London, (and who also built the Shaw Mansion).

Bill and Gini discovered a treasure trove of historical records related to the Packwoods. This book contains many of the Packwood documents from the Yale index, the Shaw Mansion, and the Custom House Maritime Museum Library.



Save the date: Unable to travel at this time, the Packwoods will join us for a live Face-time conversation at the Custom House on Sunday, March 1, at 2 PM. Seating will be extremely limited for this special event. Please register by calling 860-447-2501.

New London Maritime Society - **ANNUAL FUND** - Please make a 100% tax deductible donation

Dear Friends, we hope you'll consider supporting the New London Maritime Society, a good neighbor in downtown New London for three+ decades.

We've made it a priority to provide programs that serve the entire community, often with no fee. Here are some highlights from the past year.

~ the Frank L. McGuire Maritime Research Library has collected resources and answered th

JIBBOOM CLUB #1 has held monthly gatherings for seniors for more than 12 years. FREE

~ We've partnered with **NET Public Schools** for 11 years, with Lighthouse Kids & Now with our **Local History & Landmarks** program. FREE

Today we preserve and provide public access to four significant historic sites.

- ~ New London Harbor Lighthouse, (est.1760) 1801
 - ~ New London's US Custom House, 1833
 - ~ Race Rock Lighthouse, 1878
 - ~ New London Ledge Lighthouse, 1909

Like you, we're endlessly curious about New London's maritime past.

This year, for the first time, your donations enabled us to offer public tours to visit inside all three of our Lighthouses.

Your gifts allowed our programs for students and seniors to blossom. Meanwhile, we grew our collections, had a major reorganization of our collections facilities, created a garden alongside the museum, and coped with new leaks to the custom house roof.

Help us create an adventurous new year of programming at the Custom House.

Your generosity is what keeps us afloat. Annual Fund contributions make up 20% of the New London Maritime Society operating budget.

Please make a donation today. Heartfelt thanks for your support, Ed Cubansk, Susan Tamulevich, & the NLMS Board of Trustees

\$1,000 Whale \$750 Harbor Seal \$500 Oystercatcher \$250 Gull \$100 Scallop \$50 Quahog My contribution is \$_____

Name _____ Date _____ Business (if applicable) _____

Address _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Email _____ Phone _____ Does your employer match this gift? Employer _____

Check (by mail) _____ Make out check to *New London Maritime Society* or *NLMS* Credit card (circle one): Visa / Master Card / American Express / Discover

Credit card # Exp. Code

The Custom House Maritime Museum - your local, independent, community museum - open year-round - telling the stories of New London's waterfront!

 I'M JOINING THE NEW LONDON MARITIME SOCIETY! 

Name _____ phone _____ e-mail _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Individual \$35____ Family \$50____ Contributor \$100____ Sponsor \$250____ Patron \$1,000____ Sign-up date _____

Cash____ Check____ ~ please make payment to New London Maritime Society Visa____ Master Card____ AmEx____

Number_____ Exp. date _____ Security code_____

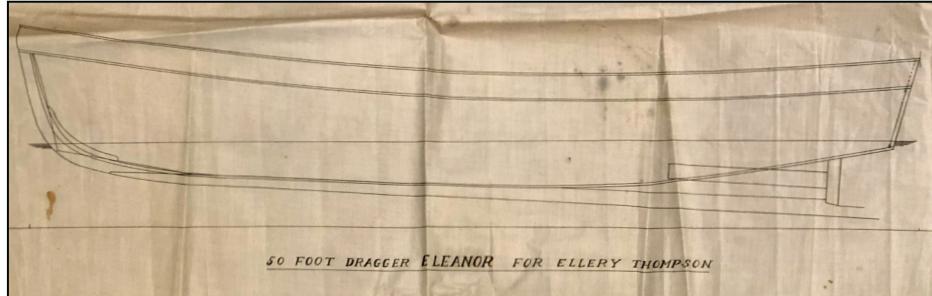
Benefits of membership include *free* admission, invitations to special events, discounts, and a newsletter.

New London Maritime Society's mission is to protect, preserve, & celebrate New London's U.S. Custom House, three area lighthouses, and Long Island Sound, and to interpret the rich maritime life & history of the port of New London and the surrounding region through museum exhibitions, educational programs, and preservation initiatives. Learn more about us at nlmaritimessociety.org.

New London Maritime Society - Custom House Maritime Museum, 150 Bank Street, New London, Connecticut 06320 860.447.2501

N.L.M.S.

New to the collection



50 FOOT DRAGGER ELEANOR FOR ELLERY THOMPSON

We thank our long-time friend **Marian Krepco** for donating some additional wonderful items relating to fisherman / author / artist Ellery Thompson (1899-1987) to the Custom House in January. Above, among these items are the plan for Ellery's dragger boat, *Eleanor*. He named the boat for his sister.



Want to know who's in the Harbor?

Come into the Custom House, click on the PortVision ship icon, and see!

local-friendly-authentic

The New London Maritime Society's **Custom House Maritime Museum** is an historic gem in downtown New London. *Join us!*

We are teachers, sailors, historians, librarians, conservationists, & maritime aficionados.

NLMS is independant. We chart our own course defending your access to historic sites and preserving our shared maritime history. Please join / donate / shop at the Custom House MUSEUM SHOP today. Thank you!

nlmaritimessociety.org



We're bringing our JIBBOOM CLUB whale boat float to **NL's St. Patrick's Day Parade**, on Sunday, March 15, at 1 PM. Help us get the float back together, and march with us. Contact [nlmtimedirector@gmail.com](mailto:nlmartimedirector@gmail.com)

Below: In November, Jody Barthel, NLMS educator and director of our third-grade Local History & Landmarks program, took all 300+ New London public school children -- two classes at a time -- to visit the Lyman Allyn Art Museum. This is the first time we partnered with the Lyman Allyn, and the children loved it! In February, they'll come to the Custom House!

