



## Recruiting Volunteer Research Assistants!

**By Cipperly Good, the Richard Saltonstall Jr. Curator of Maritime History**

Giving context to today's hot button issues...that is certainly one of the things that inspires me to work at Penobscot Marine Museum. While we mount our own exhibits and programs to address current events, being able to provide access to primary sources for academics, policymakers and the general public truly extends our reach. Showing up in a publication's acknowledgements lets us know we made an impact.

Many people have helped on this project. The following two people deserve special thanks: Megan Pinette, president of the Belfast Historical Society and Museum, and Betsy Paradis, former Reference and Special Collections librarian at the Belfast Free Library (now the Local History and Special Collections librarian at Bangor Public Library). Thanks, too, to Cipperly Good, Richard Saltonstall Jr. Curator of Maritime History at the Penobscot Marine Museum; Cheryl Coats, nineteenth-century archivist at the Waldo County Courthouse; Father Mark Reinhardt and Kathleen Gross and Kathleen Benedict, St. Brendan the Navigator Parish staff, who provided a quiet room, a clean table, and boxes of wonderful old parish documents to study; the librarians at Special Collections at the University of Maine Fogler Library; and University of Maine at Augusta library staff, especially Lisa Feldman, Andrea Thorne, and Cynthia Young, who tracked down hard-to-find resources. The Maine Historical Society in Portland and the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston collections, with their lovely reading rooms, have been a researcher's dream. Thanks, one and all.

*Acknowledgement from Kay Retzlaff's Redefining Irishness in a Coastal Maine City, 1770-1870.*

I have received invaluable help in writing this book from many sources. Mrs. Pat Adams of Bucksville, Maine, furnished genealogical records of the Buck and McGilvery families and historical information about her town. Cipperly Good and the staff of the Penobscot Marine Museum in Searsport, Maine, provided images and much information about the ship *Hemrietta*. Monica Pattangall, family historian of Lenox, Massachusetts, provided information about the Nickels family and about vessels that traveled to and from Bucksville, South Carolina. The *Independent Republic Quarterly* reports, published by the Horry County Historical Society, were a valuable resource concerning the Buck family. Thanks to those members and acquaintances of the Buck family who contributed articles to the *IRQ*, including Charles Joyner, Eugenia Buck Cutts, Constance Fournier, Charles Dusenbury, William H. Pendleton and Sharyn Holliday. Mrs. Henry L. Buck IV of Upper Mill gave me valuable information and allowed access to the original Henry Buck home. Mr. Sidney Thompson was helpful and gave access to Hebron Methodist Church. Mrs. Mary Owens provided much information about the African American community of Bucksport, South Carolina. Julie Warren of the Georgetown County Digital Library provided scans of images of the Atlantic Coast Lumber Corporation and other subjects.

*Acknowledgment in Mac McAlister's The Lumber Boom of Coastal South Carolina: Nineteenth-Century Shipbuilding and the Devastation of Lowcountry Virgin Forests.*

**Expenses and Proceeds of the Cod-Fishing Voyage of the *Martha Burgess*,  
May 17– October 17, 1853**  
Schooner *Martha Burgess*, settlement of Grand Banks voyage, May 6,  
1856. Witherle Papers, Miscellaneous Vessels, box 2, files 1, 21.  
Penobscot Marine Museum, Searsport, ME.

*Credit in Historical Atlas of Maine, edited by Stephen Hornsby and Richard Judd.*

Lest you think I am trying to toot my own horn, those acknowledgments go wholeheartedly to our volunteer research assistants. The staff at Penobscot Marine Museum wear many “hats” and we couldn’t accomplish much without our crack team of volunteers. Our vast collection of objects, archives, photographs, and publications cover a wide range of Maine maritime cultural, economic, and ecological subjects drawing researchers to our doors. Would you volunteer to assist these researchers in accessing the riches of our collection?

We are looking for help creating finding aids on a number of topics. What is a finding aid you ask? These guides identify the myriads of collection items related to a specific subject. Over the next year it is our hope to create finding aids for the following topics:

**Maine’s Extractive Economy:** If you love our *Working the Bay* exhibit and the history of Maine’s granite, lime, fisheries, ice, and lumbering industries, then this is the project for you!

**Maine’s Fisheries:** Our exhibit *Gone Fishing!* only scratches the surface of the collections related to Maine’s fishing industries. Help stakeholders, who make decisions about fishing quotas, discover the historic levels of fish abundance.

**Traditional Maritime Skills Training:** Drawing upon Maine’s rich history of ship- and boatbuilding, seamanship, and using natural resources at hand, skills training programs and businesses using traditional techniques abound here in Maine. Our collections provide first-hand accounts and tools that can be used by these entities.

If these projects pique your interest, please let us know. We will provide training on our database and a template for gathering the materials. We prefer you work onsite in Searsport, but we can adapt to a hybrid model.

If you would rather pursue your own research topic AND would be willing to take on a 3–4 hour slot weekly to assist others doing research, we are looking to fill those volunteer positions as well. Who knows what publications you will be thanked in?