

# the Deck Log

The Official Newsletter of Historic Ships in Baltimore



## USS *TORSK* TO RECEIVE NEW DECK. BRIDGE TO BE REOPENED TO PUBLIC

Very soon, the submarine USS *Torsk* will be sporting a new wooden deck and areas of her steel superstructure will be repaired thanks to grants from the Baltimore National Heritage Area and the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. The new decking material will be a sustainably harvested tropical hardwood called ipé. (pronounced “ee-pay”) Ipé is very similar in characteristic and durability to teak, the material originally used for *Torsk*'s deck. The work will be done in phases so the boat can remain open to the public. The public will also be able to see the restoration and preservation work in-progress when they visit the boat.

We are also very excited to get the boat's bridge open to the public for the first time many years. The deck and bridge restoration project, along with newly installed interpretive signage, will greatly enhance the visitor experience and help to preserve USS *Torsk* for many years to come. Work will be done by Historic Ships staff, USS *Torsk* Volunteers and US Navy Seabees. The project is scheduled to be complete in the fall of 2013.

**TAX CREDIT OPPORTUNITY:** Residents and businesses in Maryland can contribute to this project and receive 50% credit on their Maryland taxes plus their state and federal regular deductions. For more information contact Christopher Rowsom, Executive Director at extension 402 or [crowsom@historicships.org](mailto:crowsom@historicships.org). Information on this exciting opportunity to contribute is also available on the website at [www.historicships.org](http://www.historicships.org).



Above: USS *Torsk*, ca. 1945.  
Far left: view under the deck showing steel wastage.  
Left: view showing foredeck under repair today.

## USS *CONSTELLATION* EDUCATION AND HERITAGE CENTER: FUNDING FOR CONSTRUCTION IN PLACE

Historic Ships in Baltimore will break ground on the new USS *Constellation* Education and Heritage Center in October of 2013. The building will replace the current structure on Pier 1 and will house a new exhibit program and greatly needed visitor amenities such as handicap access and adequate restroom facilities. The final funding came in the form of a \$1MM State grant and a \$500,000 private gift from the Charles T. Bauer Foundation. Additional funders to this project include the City of Baltimore, the Baltimore Development Corporation, the Maryland Historical Trust and the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. This project has been a priority of the City and City business leaders for many years and we are extremely pleased that all the hard work is finally paying off.

Additional funding is still needed for the fabrication of the new exhibits. For information on how you can contribute, please contact Christopher Rowsom, Executive Director at extension 402 or [crowsom@historicships.org](mailto:crowsom@historicships.org). Special thanks to Governor Martin O'Malley, the Maryland State Legislature and the Charles T. Bauer Foundation for their support.



This rendering shows the new Historic Ships USS *Constellation* Education and Heritage Center to be located on Pier 1, Constellation Dock.

## SAVE THE DATE!

USS *Constellation* Cup Regatta and Pier Party! Saturday, 20 October

# the Deck Log

HISTORIC SHIPS  
in BALTIMORE

## HISTORIC SHIPS RECEIVES BEQUEST FOR USS *CONSTELLATION* ENDOWMENT

Historic Ships in Baltimore is pleased to announce that it has received a substantial bequest from the estate of the late Mrs. Alice Nagle. Mrs. Nagle, a long-time friend to USS *Constellation*, was the daughter of ADM Royal Ingersol, Commander of the US Atlan-



*Mrs. Alice Nagle, Daughter of ADM Royal Ingersol, Raises Her Father's 4-Star Flag on board USS Constellation in 2003*

tic Fleet during WWII.

ADM Ingersol used USS *Constellation* as his flagship for a time during the conflict and was promoted to 4-star Admiral while on board. The bequest from Mrs. Nagle, totaling over \$900,000, will be set aside for the long-term maintenance and preservation of USS *Constellation* under the management of Harbor Investment Advisory, LLC. A plaque recognizing Mrs. Nagle's contribution to USS *Constellation* will be installed in the Captain's Cabin. For more information on contributing to the USS *Constellation* Endowment Fund, please contact Christopher Rowsom, Executive Director at extension 402 or [crowsom@historicships.org](mailto:crowsom@historicships.org).



*ADM Royal Ingersol on board USS Constellation, Circa 1942*

## ZIGER SNEAD ARCHITECTS DESIGN NEW PIER 3 TICKET BOOTH

Ziger Snead Architects has provided pro bono services for the design of a new Historic Ships ticket booth for its Pier 3 location. The design, which gets its inspiration from the shapes, colors and graphics of the Historic Ships collection, will greatly improve the Historic Ships presence on Pier 3. The design has been approved by both the Baltimore Development Corporation's Inner Harbor Task Force and the Baltimore City Department of Planning's Urban Design Architectural Review Panel.

Once design and construction documents are complete, the ticket booth will be fabricated by students from the Living Classroom Foundation's Fresh Start program and the contractor for the installation will be LCF's Project S.E.R.V.E.

Special thanks to Steve Ziger and Matt Rouse for their time and effort on this project.



*New Pier 3 Ticket Booth Looking West*

*Image courtesy of Ziger Snead Architects*

## HISTORIC SHIPS LAUNCHES NEW FACEBOOK PAGE

The Historic Ships Facebook Page is the best place to get the most up-to-date information on events and programs at the ships. In addition, we have started a "This Week in History" posting highlighting special stories related to the entire HSIB fleet. Please "Like" us on Facebook so you don't miss a thing! The address is:

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/HistoricShips>



## USS CONSTELLATION CUP REGATTA AND PIER PARTY, SAT., 20 OCTOBER

Mark your calendars for one of the best annual events on the Inner Harbor Waterfront – Historic Ships presents the 2012 USS *Constellation* Cup Regatta and Pier Party on Saturday, October 20th.

**The Race:** Over 40 boats will compete for line honors racing from Fort McHenry, around Fort Carroll and into the Inner Harbor. There are awards for each class and the USS *Constellation* Cup will be presented to the Captain and crew who raise the most support for the ships.

**The Party:** The post-race party, open to all, starts on Pier 1 with tremendous food, drink, live music, a silent auction, cannon firings, ship tours and more! This is the most important fundraiser of the year for Historic Ships in Baltimore and supports our ongoing education program development and ship preservation initiatives.

See our website, [historicships.org](http://historicships.org), for details on tickets to the party and registering for the race. Sponsorships and reserved tables are available.

Special thanks to Baltimore City Yacht Association, Downtown Sailing Center, Houpla Studios and the many volunteers who assist us with this event for their dedicated support.



*David Wallace (middle) with the crew of Owaissa, winners of the 2011 USS Constellation Cup*

## Historic Events Since 1854

Have Your Next Party, Corporate Function,  
Or Special Event on board

USS *Constellation*, USCGC *Taney*  
or at the Seven Foot Knoll Lighthouse  
For Information Contact Laura Givens

(410) 539-1797 ext. 432

[lgivens@historicships.org](mailto:lgivens@historicships.org)

## NEW EXHIBITS AT HISTORIC SHIPS

Over the past several months, Historic Ships Interpretation Coordinator Brian Auer, along with several other staff members and volunteers, has been developing and installing two new exhibits.

On board USS *Constellation*, located both on the gun deck near the galley and on the berth deck just aft of the hammocks, is a new FEEDING THE FLEET exhibit. Brian commissioned the fabrication of several varieties of “faux food” representing what the fare would have been for the sailors on board complete with hard-tack, salted junk, labscouse, and duff. Special thanks to volunteer and member John Barnard for his support of this new exhibit.



*Feeding the Fleet Exhibit - Examples of Daily Fare, Including Hard Tack With Weevils!*



*Feeding the Fleet Exhibit - On the Berth Deck of USS Constellation, Showing the Typical Mess*

On board USS *Torsk*, Brian, with the assistance of our volunteers and HSIB historian Paul Cora, has researched, written, fabricated and installed new interpretive signage throughout the boat. This marks a tremendous improvement in our public presentation. Special thanks to Mike Eacho, Cathy Steiner and the members of the *Torsk* Volunteer Association for their assistance and support.

# the Deck Log



## SS DANVILLE - A BYGONE PIECE OF BALTIMORE MARITIME HISTORY

By Julia Cora, Intern at Historic Ships in Baltimore

*Editor's Note: Historic Ships in Baltimore will soon display a new artifact in the "Baltimore Room" at the Seven Foot Knoll Lighthouse: the ship's bell from SS Danville. This article highlights the history behind this important artifact.*

As a port city, Baltimore's commercial strength has always been tied to its waterborne trade and the vessels that have operated along the city's waterfront. From the end of the Civil War to the mid-twentieth century, many of these vessels were steamships, such as the SS *Danville*. Built in Baltimore, SS *Danville* was not only an important carrier of passengers in the city's heyday, but was a remarkable example of Baltimore's shipbuilding expertise.

The steamer *Danville* was laid down in 1882 at the Locust Point shipyard of William E. Woodall and Company. With an overall length of 235 feet she displaced 1,354 tons and was described at that time in *The Baltimore Sun* as "the largest vessel launched in Baltimore in twenty years." The steam engines were manufactured by the well-known Charles Reeder and Sons, whose factory was located in Federal Hill. The same *Sun* article described *Danville's* engine room as having "the largest engines of this class ever built in this city, and will doubtless reflect great credit on Baltimore workmanship." *Editor's note: Charles Reeder was a steam pioneer who established a foundry in Baltimore in 1815 and built the engine for the first steam-powered vessel to operate on the Chesapeake Bay.*

SS *Danville* was launched on September 22, 1882 from the Woodall and Co. shipyard and was observed by hundreds of people, including many important Baltimore political and economic figures of the time. In January of 1883 *Danville* made her maiden voyage to Seven Foot Knoll and back to celebrate its official turning over to the York River [steamboat] Line.

The Baltimore, Chesapeake and Richmond Steamboat Company, often called the York River Line, was one of the city's best known passenger carriers in the heyday of the steamboat era. SS *Danville* principally carried passengers between Baltimore and West Point, Virginia. All of the York River Line's six ships connected with the Richmond and York River Railroad Line, effectively creating a commercial and passenger link to the South, an area that was still recovering from the Civil War. In 1886 *Danville* underwent major renovations, costing \$30,000. These renovations included the lengthening the main dining area by 22 feet, all new paint and woodwork, and the addition of electricity. Following this work, the *Danville* was able to accommodate up to one hundred fifty first class passengers.

Records indicate that the *Danville* suffered two minor collisions in 1889. The first was in March and involved a vessel named the *Avalon* near the Seven Foot Knoll Lighthouse and seems to have resulted in very little damage. The second was with another steamer called the *Pentz* in May, which resulted in \$200 worth of

damage to the *Danville*. According to contemporary newspaper accounts, neither of the Captains of the *Danville* or the *Pentz* were found at fault.

SS *Danville* served purposes other than commercial transport however. According to a *Baltimore Sun* article in 1898, the ship was chartered by the US Government to transport Col. William P. Lane's First Maryland Regiment to Fort Monroe, VA. According to *The Sun*, the regiment marched to Pier 19 in May of 1898 to "take possession of the steamer." The men were delivered to Fort Monroe by SS *Danville* where they trained during the mobilization for the Spanish-American War.

In 1909 the ship was chartered out to the Old Dominion Steamship Line while two of their boats were laid up. Two years later, the Baltimore, Chesapeake and Richmond Steamship Company sold SS *Danville* to the Colonial Navigation Company. Renamed SS *Brockton*, the once-familiar Baltimore steamer then carried passengers between New York and Providence, Rhode Island. Though records are scanty, it appears that SS *Brockton* was laid up in either 1923 or 1931, and eventually abandoned.

In the days before interstate highways and airlines, Baltimore Harbor was an important transportation hub and steamships such as SS *Danville* were among the most familiar sites along the Patapsco River and the Chesapeake Bay. The display of the ship's bell from SS *Danville* at the Seven Foot Knoll Lighthouse re-establishes a connection between two elements of Baltimore's maritime history: the lighthouse itself which still exists, and the SS *Danville* which is gone forever.



SS DANVILLE tied up along the Light Street waterfront, now Baltimore's Inner Harbor, circa 1890

photo courtesy Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum



## Historic Ships in Baltimore Community Support: December, 2011 through August, 2012

The following individuals, families, corporations and foundations have made generous donations to Historic Ships in Baltimore. Contributions help to preserve the fleet and provide support to educational programs and opportunities for our visitors and for the thousands of school children who come aboard each year. We thank all of you very much for your support and encourage others to come aboard and help to keep the ships afloat! Our apologies, in advance, for any inadvertent omissions.

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## HISTORIC SHIPS CREW/DESCENDENT REUNION ON BOARD USCGC TANEY

On Saturday, 25 August, former crewmembers, descendents, volunteers, staff and members of Historic Ships in Baltimore gathered on board USCGC *Taney* to celebrate our history, the service of all of those in attendance and those who could not be there.

On board to enjoy the festivities were 6 former crewmembers including Mr. Vincent Carnagie who served aboard USS *Torsk* from 1945 to 1946. Mr. Carnagie told us that he was aboard when the last Japanese ship of WWII was sunk and how he and the rest of the crew used to run through the boat. He was very pleased with the overall condition of the boat and reported that he was having a great time in Baltimore with his family.

Also on board were the descendents of seven former crewmembers including Historic Ships Advisory Board members Steve Morgan, whose father served on board *Taney*, and Lou Miller whose great grandfather served on board USS *Constellation*.

Historic Ships recognised its faithful volunteer corps including our two organized volunteer groups: Ship's Company and the *Torsk* Volunteer Association. Special recognition went to John Barnard and David Thames for the sheer number of hours they put in annually. Thank you John and Dave!

Next year's reunion event will take place on board USS *Constellation* and is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 24th.



Mr. Vincent Carnagie

## Overnight Adventures!

Historic Ships in Baltimore is pleased to offer fun, hands-on, immersive overnight education programs on board USS *Constellation*, USS *Torsk*, and USCGC *Taney* for scout, school and youth groups. For more information visit our website: [www.historicships.org](http://www.historicships.org) or contact us directly by phone: 410-396-3453 or via e-mail: [sberry@historicships.org](mailto:sberry@historicships.org)



## MEDFORD CANBY, VOLUNTEER AND EDUCATOR, CROSSES THE BAR



*Mr. Medford P. Canby*

On February 2, 2012, Historic Ships in Baltimore lost a long-time friend and volunteer, Medford P. Canby. A life-long resident of Washington, DC, Medford was born on September 18, 1926. Among the boyhood memories which he liked to share was having seen the ill-fated German airship Hindenburg flying over the Nation's capital in 1937. This experience undoubtedly nurtured his love of technology and history.

During World War II, Medford entered the United States Merchant Marine Academy and graduated in the class of 1944.

Among his many recollections of his time at the USMMA was living aboard the ex US Navy

steam sloop *USS Ranger* (1876) which had become a stationary training vessel by the 1940s.

In addition to serving in the Merchant Marine during the last year of World War II, Medford received a commission in the US Navy Reserve and in the late 1940s trained to become submarine officer. While at New London, CT, he trained to qualify as a Diving Officer aboard *USS Torsk*. In the early 1950s, Medford was assigned to the submarine *USS Manta* (SS299) which involved at that time with training surface ships in anti-submarine tactics off southern Florida. He liked to joke, "I fought the Korean War from Key West."

Outside of his Naval Reserve duty, Medford was a career employee of the Defense Mapping Agency in Washington, DC. After retiring in the 1990s, he re-established his connection with his old training submarine *USS Torsk*. Working as a volunteer, Medford was very active in the Baltimore Maritime Museum's school education program "Up-Bubble, Down-Bubble – Getting to Know Submarines" and often led school tours of *Torsk*. Outside of formal education programs, Medford often visited *Torsk* to spend the day chatting with visitors about a subject he loved: the history and technology of submarines. His easy manner with visitors, when combined with his endless supply of anecdotes and witticisms, and an expert knowledge of fleet submarines, made for extremely rewarding experiences for visitors. In later years, though declining mobility made it harder for him to visit *Torsk*, he was still willing and able to assist with technical questions about the boat. Among his last contributions was the development of HSIB's new interpretive sign plan for *Torsk* in early 2012.

We are grateful for the many years of service Medford gave to the visiting public aboard *USS Torsk*.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SHIP'S COMPANY ON BOARD!

**Saturday, 29 September and Saturday, 27 October**

**On board *USS Constellation***

*Constellation's* own Ship's Company of volunteer sailors and marines come aboard to provide a unique and fascinating view of service at sea. Presentations and hands-on activities throughout the day punctuate the daily routine and focus on day-to-day shipboard life in Mr. Lincoln's Navy.

### USS CONSTELLATION HISTORY TOUR *With John Barnard*

**Saturday, 15 September; Saturday, 6 and 20 October**

**On board *USS Constellation***

Take a walking tour through 100 years of naval service! Historian and volunteer, John Barnard, leads an hour-long tour that focuses on many of the social changes that took place aboard *USS Constellation* during her century of service. Come aboard and take a close look at the real Old Navy, and see the difference time makes. This presentation is open to all visitors and is included with regular admission. No reservations are required.

### USS CONSTELLATION CUP REGATTA AND PIER PARTY

**Saturday, 20 October, RACE: 11AM, PARTY: 5PM**

**Baltimore Harbor, Pier 1 and on board *USS Constellation***

Join us for a fun filled day on the water. The day kicks off with the 8th annual *USS Constellation* Cup Regatta in the Inner Harbor and culminates in the Historic Ships' post-race fundraiser from 5:00 to 9:00 on Pier 1 and on board *USS Constellation*.

### PEARL HARBOR MEMORIAL CEREMONY

**Friday, 7 December, 11:30AM**

**On board *USCGC Taney***

Join the board and staff of Historic Ships in Baltimore in marking the anniversary of the December 1941 Japanese Attack on Hawaii and honoring those who served during WWII. The Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony, will be held on board the US Coast Guard Cutter *Taney*, and is open to the public at no cost.

### NEW YEAR'S EVE DECK PARTY!

**SATURDAY, 31 December, 10PM to 1AM**

**On board *USS Constellation***

Ring in the NEW YEAR with great food, drink, and music and watch the spectacular Inner Harbor Fireworks from the deck of *USS Constellation*, high above the Inner Harbor crowds. A special NYE menu, provided by the Rouge Fine Catering will be served with local ale, wine and soft drinks. There will be music, special tours, cannon firings and more. Reservations required. For tickets please visit the Historic Ships website: [www.historicships.org](http://www.historicships.org) or call 410-539-1797 X 422.

Look for up-to-date information on Historic Ships events, presentations and programs at [www.historicships.org](http://www.historicships.org)

or on our facebook page: <https://facebook.com/#!/HistoricShips>



Pier 1, 301 E. Pratt Street,  
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**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Yes, I would like to become a member of Historic Ships in Baltimore. Please enroll me as a member so that I may help keep the ships afloat, receive the museum's newsletter, The Deck Log, and enjoy the many other benefits of membership.

- \$40 Petty Officer
- \$75 Ships's Crew (small family)
- \$125 Sailing Master (large family)
- \$250 Captain and Crew
- \$500 Commodore
- \$1000 Admiral
- \$2500+Corporate

**PLEASE PRINT**

Primary Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed, payable to: Historic Ships in Baltimore

Charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  American Express  Discover

Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

You may also become a museum member on-line at [www.historicships.org](http://www.historicships.org) or when you visit the Ship's Store.

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**SAVE THE DATE**  
 Historic Ships in Baltimore's  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE Deck Party!**  
 On board USS CONSTELLATION  
 For tickets and information visit our website:  
[www.historicships.org](http://www.historicships.org)  
 or call 410-539-1797 ext. 422