

Volume VIII, Issue Number 3

Summer, 2006

The Official Newsletter of the USS Constellation Museum

WARDROOM COMPLETE!

"Damn the Torpedos, we've got to get this done!" said new Constellation Museum Curator John
Pentangelo as the entire staff pitched in to put the final touches on the Wardroom and Officers' Quarters
Restoration and Exhibit. As the deadline date for completion drew closer, all hands were involved for last minute painting, polishing the bilge pumps, vacuuming deck seams, installing door knobs, and restoring furniture. It was not until an hour before the BLAST! on
May 19th that we could truely state that the exhibit was "ready for prime time" as the last pieces of furni-

ture and the final details were put into place.

The eight-month project, supported by grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Baltimore City Heritage Area, and several private and corporate supporters was unveiled before a crowd of over 100 people who were attending the Museum's annual fundraiser on the evening of May 19th. After brief remarks by the Museum's Executive Director, Christopher Rowsom, the curtains were pulled back and the public saw, for the first time in over 100 years, what the officers' quarters looked like when the ship



The Wardroom, From Aft Looking Forward



Original Wardroom Sideboard Restored by Paul Powichroski, Ship's Manager



WARDROOM, (CONTINUED FROM THE COVER)

was sailing. Gone is the dark and dingy paneling and broken bunks. They are now restored, repaired, conserved, painted and varnished to look shipshape. New exhibits discuss the navy's officer corps and what it was like to be a leader in a time of great social upheaval and technological change.



The Executive Officer's Cabin

Each of the 10 restored staterooms has a description of the officer's duties as well as a brief biography of each respective officer during *Constellation's* Civil War service. Each cabin is finely appointed with bedding and blankets, a secretary bureau, a desk, chair, and other items and ephemera that an officer would use such as pens, ink, and stationary. Each stateroom will soon also have a replica uniform mounted on one of its bulkheads.

Crew on this project included former Museum Curator Ken Hickman, now director of the Penn State All-Sports Museum, present Curator John Pentangelo, Ship's Manager Paul Powichrowski, Senior Shipwright Bruce MacKenzie, and Shipwrights Joan Murphy, Tim Fowler, and Marc Pettingill as well as a group of very dedicated volunteers.

The Museum staff is extremely pleased and proud of the way the restoration turned out. If you have not had a chance to see it, please pay us a visit. Sponsorship for individual cabins is still available. A solid brass plaque in your name is mounted on the cabin door for all to see and you will receive tax advantages for your donation as well. If you are interested, please contact Museum Director Christopher Rowsom at by phone at 410-539-1797, ext 402, or via e-mail at rowsom@constellation.org.



7TH ANNUAL BLAST! A GREAT SUCCESS

Fantastic weather, wonderful food, and a great crowd made the seventh annual USS *Constellation* BLAST! a terrific success. Many guests indicated that it was the best BLAST! ever which leaves us wondering how we are going to top it next year!

The event marked the opening of the Wardroom and Officers' Quarters exhibit and was attended by over 350 people. The Officers' Dinner started early and guests enjoyed the wonderful cuisine of the BRASS ELEPHANT RESTAURANT. Once again, Jack Elsby and his staff did a terrific job and their was plenty for all. Jack and the Brass Elephant have been sponsoring this event since its inception and in honor of that support, Jack was presented with a special honorary half-hull model of the ship. While on board, guests were treated to the New Orleans Jazz sounds of "Sock Olay" and, as darkness fell, the Preakness Balloon Glow.

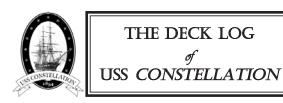
The party on the Pier started later with music by "The Bridge" and food and drink provided by all of the restaurants of Harborplace and the Gallery. At the appropriate hour, everyone enjoyed the Preakness Fireworks display. The party did not stop there and the music continued until 2330!

We would like to thank everyone who attended the event for their support and generosity. This year's BLAST! raised over \$28,000, net, to help maintain and preserve one of America's most important national icons. Thanks again to The Brass Elephant Restaurant, Faidley's Seafood, Harborplace and the Gallery, J.H. Furst Printing, Atlantic Stage Lighting, Extreme Graphics, Mission Media, Reliable Churchill Distributers, Monumental Life, Northrop Grumman, Fort Dodge Animal Health, Constellation Energy, WLIF, WTMD, Weinberg Harris Associates, and all of the people and organizations that supported this great annual event.

USS CONSTELLATION CUP ON THE HORIZON

It won't be long before the days start to cool, there is breeze on the bay, and we all start to think about sailing again. right about that time, we hope that you will join the fleet for the 2nd annual USS *Constellation* Cup, Saturday, October 14th. This event is being held in memory of the Mr. George Colligan, one of last year's race organizers, who passed away late last year. George was a great spirit and really helped us to get the first race off the ground in a very short time. We hope to rekindle that spirit this year as we round up the boats to participate. Information on registration, etc. will be on our website soon.

After the race, the USS *Constellation* Bull Roast, held on board the ship, will give ample opportunity for all participants to spin yarns, etc. There will be live music, great food, awards, and a wonderful time for all.



CORPORATE MATCHING A GREAT WAY TO DOUBLE YOUR CONTRIBUTION

As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, donations to the USS Constellation Museum qualify for most corporate matching programs. Please ask your employer if a matching program is available and make your contribution count twice!

PRIVATE PARTIES ON BOARD USS CONSTELLATION

YOU CAN BE THE CAPTAIN! The Captain's Cabin of USS Constellation is equipped with comfortable central heating for the colder months and air conditioning for the hot ones. It is a perfect place for that special dinner party or casual gathering of friends. The entire ship is also available for large events.

For more information and to reserve your date please contact Laura Givens at 410-539-1797, ext. 432 or lgivens@constellation.org



The Captain' Cabin Dressed and Ready for a Big Event!

SUBSCRIPTION ALERT! DON'T LET THIS BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER!

The Deck Log is a quarterly publication of the USS Constellation Museum. Printing and mailing costs are supported by annual membership dues to the Museum. If you have not become a member, or have let your membership lapse, and you would like to continue to receive The Deck Log, we hope that you will consider becoming a member of the Museum. You can do so by calling Membership Coordinator, Dayna Aldridge, at 410-539-1797, ext. 422, by visiting our website at www.constellation.org, or by mail using the coupon (photocopies are OK) on the back page of this newsletter. We thank you for your support!

NEW AND RETURNING MUSEUM MEMBERS THANK YOU AND WELCOME ABOARD!!

Mr. John Antiporowich Jr. Ms. Melissa C. Carter-Brown Mr. Alfred Freund Mr. George Fuderer Mr. and Mrs. Dave Hanold Dr. and Mrs. Mark A. McHugh Mr. Francisco Novoa Mr. Gregory Patti Ms. Melissa Potter Ms. Margaret Richter Mr. Christopher Schubert Mr. Mike Shultz Mr. and Mrs. Donald Steiner

DONORS

The following companies and individuals have made significant cash and in-kind contributions to the USS Constellation Museum March through June of 2006

Alban Tractor Co., Inc. Mr. David Alberg Atlantic Stage Lighting Bacardi Baltimore Comfort Coaches Mr. John Barnard Coach Brian Billick Mr. and Mrs. Larry Bopp The Brass Elephant Restaurant and Caterers A. R. Burdette, Inc. Coca Cola Constellation Energy Group Corizon Tequila Cummins Power Systems, Inc. Extreme Graphics Faidley's Seafood Fort Dodge Animal Health FOX 45 GWWO, Inc./Architects Mr. Paul Hjelmervik J. H. Furst Printing Company, Inc.

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Corporate, Family, and Individual memberships are a great way to support your museum and keep **YOUR** ship afloat.

For information on how you can become a member and part of the USS Constellation Museum Crew, call Dayna at 410-539-1797, ext. 422; dminter@constellation.org. Memberships make terrific gifts too!



CURATORÍS CORNER

Recently, we had the pleasure of communicating with Rich MacAlpine, a volunteer from the Yates County Genealogical and Historical Society in Penn Yan, New York. MacAlpine discovered a letter written by county native Frank H. Schofield (1869-1942) while he was a cadet at the United States Naval Academy. On June 18, 1889, three days after USS Constellation left Annapolis for its annual summer cruise with 170 sailors and 135 cadets on board, the practice ship ran aground in Lynnhaven Bay, Virginia, near Cape Henry. Schofield immediately wrote a letter to ease his parents' worries. Fortunately, the foul weather subsided and the ship avoided becoming a total wreck. The next morning a wrecking steamer hauled Constellation into deep water. After repairs at Norfolk Navy Yard, the summer cruise resumed. The commanding officer, Commander P.F. Harrington was found guilty of negligence and suspended from duty for two years.

Schofield received his commission as an ensign in the US
Navy in 1892, served as Executive Officer of USS Hawk during the
Spanish-American War, and was awarded a Navy Cross for helping to
develop anti-submarine tactics during the First World War. He reached
the rank of rear admiral in 1924 and was promoted to admiral, in
1930 during his tenure as Commander in Chief, Pacific Battle Force.
He retired in 1933 as a rear admiral. In 1889, however, Schofield was
a green cadet experiencing life aboard a ship in the United States Navy.
His letter compliments another first person account by cadet and future
rear admiral, William A. Moffet who likewise wrote his mother soon
after the excitement was over. We thank Yates County Genealogical and
Historical Society for their kind permission to print the letter.

U.S.S. Constellation

Norfolk, Va. June 19, 1889

Dear Ma & Pa,

We have been shipwrecked but now all are safe. Half a dozen men and cadets have bad bruises and jams on their hands and feet but otherwise the men have not suffered except from overwork. About yesterday noon we were sailing down the Bay with a fair wind when we were overtaken and surrounded by a fog. We took in part of our sails but continued on our course for Cape Henry. At 2:10 in the afternoon, we were called "All hands bring ship to anchor!" We were just answering their call when suddenly the ship struck bottom. The waves were running rather high and the wind was on shore so that we were soon tossed up on the beach most uncomfortably high. A boat containing men with one officer and cadet immediately put off for shore to ascertain our whereabouts and telegraph for assistance. On board ship, we worked like tigers sending down all the yards, masts, and heavy spars possible to keep us from being thrown on our beam's end. Everybody was cool and collected and worked methodically and with a will. I was given charge of the two down decks and had my hands full and running over. About an hour after we struck, a leak was reported to me in the forward part of the hold. I examined and found two quite large streams of water pouring into the ship. I had it reported to the Captain and he gave orders that it should be kept quiet for a time but that careful watch should be kept. Shortly after that another and larger leak was discovered in

the middle of the ship. All this time the vessel was being thrown up and down on the waves. Each time she came down and struck bottom the whole tremendous framework of the ship would shake and tremble and grate until it seemed as if something must go to pieces. The water kept coming in more rapidly than ever and the hold began to fill very fast. About 6 pm most people began to think that we would have to abandon ship. You could see the sailors and cadets stealing odd moments to go below and secure such valuables as they possessed. I had rather hard work to keep them from coming below. At seven so much water was in that we had to get the stoves up from below. At eight we started the pumps but for two hours could make no headway. When we could not fit pumps, I got cadets and men and formed bucket lines, dipping the water out of the hold. The pumps were kept going all night and finally we began gaining on the water. At about midnight, the news had reached the Cape Henry life saving station of our peril and they immediately came to our relief. Signal lights were exchanged between ship and shore and shortly after----boom!--- a gun was fired at us! Something struck in the water a few yards short of the ship. Boom again---and again--a splash forward of the vessel. A third report across the vessel shot an iron ball and attached to it a small but very stout string. The string was caught and half a mile of it was hauled in. Then we found attached to that a larger string. Half a mile of this was hauled in and we saw coming in a large "life hawser". When within about ten feet of the ship's side, the lines parted and our "life hawser" was gone!

Shortly after midnight, a tug arrived from Norfolk. The Captain of the tug came on board and asked ten thousand dollars to pull us off the shore but we finally got him down to five thousand. He however could not pull us off but took an anchor out into deep water for us and dropped it with a hawser attached. We then waited until high tide and pulled ourselves off. By eight o'clock in the morning, several tugs came to our assistance. At one o'clock in the afternoon we started for Norfolk in tow and here we are! The pumps have to be kept going night and day to keep us from sinking but all danger is over. A diver is going down this morning to examine the vessel's bottom which is undoubtedly in very bad condition. We will probably lay here a month nearly and we may not be able to finish the cruise at all. I expect to see Henry (Danes) today or tomorrow. Address all letters to Norfolk at present

Lovingly, your son Frank

LEAVING A LEGACY BEQUESTS AND MEMORIAL FUNDS

Planned gifts are an important way of helping the USS Constellation Museum to meet its financial needs. These contributions provide donors with a easy and satisfying means to help us to preserve USS Constellation while providing you with the added benefit of a charitable income tax deduction. For more information, please contact Christopher Rowsom, Executive Director, at the USS Constellation Museum, (410)-539-1797.



COLLECTIONS UPDATE

In the last few months several interesting items have found their way into the collection. Two faithful supporters of the museum have also continued to lend a hand in increasing our knowledge of USS Constellation and the United States Navy. John Barnard has donated eleven new titles to our venerable research library which covers a wide range of historical topics such as shipbuilding, Civil War uniforms and weaponry, and general naval history. Robert Cheel has provided new photographs of the ship including an image of the spar deck in 1926 that offers a valuable view of the galley skylight.



The Spar Deck of USS Constellation, ca. 1926

Restoration of the Wardroom and officer's quarters has also expanded the collections. In March, the restoration crew extracted hardware from the ship as planks were replaced in steerage on the starboard side of the berth deck. One artifact was a trunnel (or treenail) used in the construction of the ship in 1853. The trunnel fastener, pulled from a beam under the deck in steerage, was one of the ancient methods of fastening used in wooden ship building. Shipwrights used these wooden pins (ours are made of locust) to attach planking to frames and fasten knees to a ceiling or beam. The trunnel was driven through planks and timbers to connect them. The ends were then split and wedged or caulked with oakum. Moisture would also expand the wood to create a tight seal.

Two copper clench bolts (10 1/2" and 13" long) with their original washers were removed from the "thick stuff" (timber over 4" thick). Copper was used for fasteners below the waterline, while iron was used above the waterline. The bolts are stamped "GNY" on their bottom tips, indicating that they were issued at the Gosport Navy Yard, where the ship was launched in 1854. These fasteners are a visual representation of the ship's origins and offer great insight into the shipwrights' trade in the nineteenth century.

Descendants of former crew members continue to support the Museum's mission by sharing their time, memories, and records. Michael Christensen of Cumberland, Rhode Island visited USS Constellation in April with many reproduced documents

pertaining to the service of his grandfather, Boatswain's Mate 2/c Andrew Christensen. Andrew served aboard Constellation from 1900 to 1901, and for one month in 1905, while the ship was

stationed at the U.S. Naval Training Center in Newport, Rhode Island. One photograph donated to the Museum shows Andrew and his family in 1905.

The Museum offers sincere thanks to everyone who supports our efforts to increase our knowledge of Constellation's history and our ability to share the ship's treasured past with our visitors. If you have an item you would like to donate to the Museum, please contact John Pentangelo at (410) 539gelo@constellation.org.



1797, ext. 446 or jpentan- Boatswain's Mate 2/c Andrew Christensen and Family - ca. 1905









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EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION

This spring the Education and Interpretation Department was busy, as one would expect. In April and May alone, over 3,000 students toured the ship, most of these receiving Guided Powder Monkey Tours from the Ship's Crew. During the same eight week period, we had seven overnight programs for over 200 participants, including an overnight for the winners of the Volvo Ocean Race contests.

The Volvo Ocean Race proved a challenge that the crew was ready to tackle with their normal skill and ease, taking in stride the extended hours and additional tours and ceremonies. In addition, the interpretive crew provided staffing for Miss USA Pageant activities, several catered events, and the USS *Constellation BLAST!* Training of new crew members began for the summer of 2006.

The new presentation, Mechanical Advantage, has moved from educational concept to full installation and implementation, thanks to the cement mixing and construction skills of our Interpretive Coordinator, Leigh Ullrich. This activity has been used successfully on several overnight adventures, and will be an important addition to our SuperKids program and general programming. The SuperKids Camp reading and literacy program, which has expanded to include phonetics, vocabulary, and critical listening training, will include this new exhibit as a tool to teach mathematics and physics.

As for other interpretive efforts, the Ship's Crew continues to provide the hourly presentations and tours that have become the backbone of the interpretive department. In addition, Ship's Company was in strong evidence aboard in April, May, and June, with additional appearances scheduled each month through October, as well as their continued commitment to off site venues and our overnight program. It is also a pleasure to welcome back John Barnard, who will once again be giving his "Constellation History Tour" every other Sunday, broadening our presentation range. Herb Scott returned this spring to his regular role as a volunteer by again portraying a USS Constellation Marine. In April and May Dr. Wendy Taparanskas, Ph.D., and Ms. Mary Eastman provided a glimpse into the diplomatic side of Constellation's role during the Civil War, with their presenta-

tion, "Holidays, Festivities, & Diplomacy-Constellation on Foreign Stations."

Hails and Farewells: Farewell to Landsman David Allen, who upon successful graduation from High School has moved on to bigger and brighter things, and hail and welcome to our new Landsmen Ivori Walden, Jason Huibregste, Ariel Walden, and Robin Estes.



New Ship's Crewmembers Jason Huibregste, Ivori Walden and Robin Estes

To find out more Hubregste, Ivori Walden and Robin Estes about USS Constellation Museum Education Programs, including the Sea Chest on Loan or USS Constellation Overnight Adventures, contact Stan Berry, Director of Interpretation and Education at 410-539-1797, ext 466 or Sberry@constellation.org.

MY CONSTELLATION EXPERIENCE

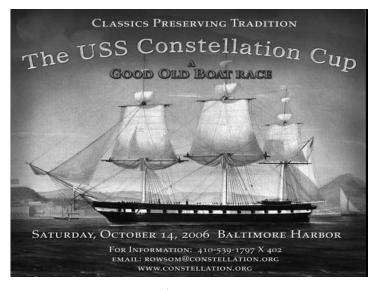
Contributed by Tavon Holmes Ship's Store Assistant Manager

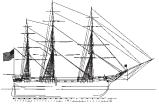
After a little over a year working here, I am happy to say that the Constellation Museum is a great place to work. I have been able to meet and work with people from all different walks of life. This job has helped me build on my customer service and problem solving skills which I then try to share with my staff. I can tell that the crew has been picking up on these skills because their ability to deal with difficult situations has improved greatly since they



Tavon Holmes, Asst.. Store Manager (center) with Store Crewmembers Tiffany Williams (right) and Shana Henderson (left)

started working here. Working at a museum makes learning history a prerequisite, so after a year the answers to most general and some specific questions about the ship are second nature. In preparation for our summer season we have new crew members joining us and they have been proving themselves as great employees, co-workers and friends. With a great team and a great store (thanks to Audrey) we head into the summer season with all the tools for success at our disposal.







SHIPYARD SCUTTLEBUTT

I am happy to announce that the Wardroom project is complete! As usual, we were working right up to the deadline but, if I can say so myself, the result of our late night work marathons is amazing. The crew and our dedicated weekday volunteers have transformed the Officer's Quarters from the dark, dreary space that it was into the warm, inviting haven that it should be. The historically correct white paint really brightens up the space and shows off the natural wood finishes of the trim and

furniture as well as the gleaming brass door hardware and traditional light fixtures. The crew did such a great job of blending the newly constructed cabins into the original, restored joiner work that the effect is essentially seamless. One of the small, but significant details that pulls it all together is the trim that joins the tops of the bulkheads. Made up of four separate pieces of molding, custom matched to the original woodwork for us by Baltimore's own R. Thomas Frock



Volunteer Glenn Davis making patterns using a "jiggle stick."

& Co, it wraps the entire space. Senior Shipwright, Bruce MacKenzie even made custom, curved sections of the trim to go around the cabins' rounded corner posts. The Berth Deck now looks much like it must have when the ship was sailing 150 years ago. If you use your imagination you can almost hear the officers, sitting around the table, discussing the day's event.

I would like to repeat a big THANK YOU! to our generous donors: Ted Frock and his crew for the custom moldings and the lumber for the wardroom table, Weems and Plath in Annapolis for the traditional lighting fixtures and Merit Metal in Warrington, PA for our brass door lock trim.

We have finally been given the keys to our new shop at the new Frederick Douglass Isaac Myers Maritime Park and the crew has begun to move all of our woodworking machinery into the new space. Once the tools are in place, the contractor can complete the dust collection system and we'll be ready to go on our next project!

I would like to again thank our weekday volunteers Fran



Volunteer Fran Marinaro surveys the demolition of the

Marinaro, Glenn Davis, and Dave VanWve, as well as Mark Gleason and Don Pressler for their work on the Wardroom project. This dedicated group worked alongside our shipwright staff and their efforts are greatly appreciated. Our Saturday "Ship-Shape Days" are in full swing and the rigging gang is working on the shrouds. If you are interested in joining our volunteer crew and learning some traditional rigging Midshipmen Quarters Deck.ing and ship-keeping skills, contact me at

410-539-1797 ext. 448 or via e-mail at pgp@constellation.org to sign on. We hope to see you on board soon!

SUMMER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SECOND SATURDAY LECTURE SERIES ON **BOARD USS CONSTELLATION**

SATURDAY, JULY 8TH; 2:00 PM: "THE CIVIL WAR GUNBOAT USS ARIZONA" Mr. Rob Christopher has returned each year to provide updates about his underwater historical research and to present a little-known history of the Civil War's river war. The gunboat Arizona currently lies at the bottom of the Mississippi River beneath sand a mud, but with each new dive, she reveals more information. Come join us and learn about this fascinating underwater hunt for history.

JULY 15TH - NOON TO 4PM NAVIGATING THROUGH HISTORY

Before electronics, there were no road signs or landmarks for the navigator to use, just the stars and planets. The Sun, our brightest star, is one of the handiest stars to use for celestial navigation. LCDR Rick Gay, USCG, will explain how to observe the sun and how to perform the calculations that make up the magical world of celestial navigation. Come aboard, and try your hand with old and new instruments as you determine the exact location of the Constellation.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

COME CELEBRATE THE 152ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAUNCH OF USS CONSTELLATION AT THE ANNUAL

FESTIVAL OF THE SEA

FOLKSINGER AND SHANTYMAN

HANK CRAMER AND CONSTELLATONIS CREW

LIVING HISTORY ON BOARD WITH "SHIP'S COMPANY"

Come celebrate with former crewmembers, descendants of crew, and friends of the ship as we commemorate the 152nd anniversary of the launch of USS Constellation with a Festival of the Sea on Pier 1. There will be all sorts of "hands-on" activities for kids and adults alike.

Plus the music of Hank Cramer and Constellation's Crew all the way from Washington State. 10:00am to 4:pm

> FOR UPDATES AND ADDITIONAL EVENTS VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.CONSTELLATION .ORG



USS Constellation Museum Pier I, 301 East Pratt Street Baltimore, MD 21202-3134 www.constellation.org 410-539-1797

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SAVE THE DATE FOR THE USS CONSTELLATION CUP SAILBOAT RACE AND THE ANNUAL BULL ROAST

SATURDAY. OCTOBER 14TH - CALL 410-539-1797 X 422 FOR INFORMATION

USS Constellation Museum MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes, I would like to become a member of the USS Constellation Museum.					
Please enroll me as a member so that I may help the cause and receive the Constellation Museum's					
newsletter, THE DECK LOG, and enjoy the many other benefits of membership. Enclosed is my					
check for:					
	\$30	Petty Officer	Name		
	\$50	Ship's Crew (family)			
	\$100	Sailing Master	Address	1	_
	\$250	Captain and Crew			
	\$500	Commodore	City		State
	\$1000	Admiral			
	\$1000+	Corporate	Zip	E-mail	

You may also become a museum member when you visit the ship or our website.

MEMBERSHIP HELPS TO KEEP THE SHIP AFLOAT!

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