



THE DECK LOG *of* USS CONSTELLATION

Volume IX, Issue Number 4 Fall, 2007

The Official Newsletter of the USS *Constellation* Museum

USS CONSTELLATION MUSEUM RECEIVES LIBERIAN DELEGATION

The staff of the USS *Constellation* Museum were pleased to receive a visit from several members of the Liberian government including the Liberian Ambassador, Mr. Charles Minor, two Liberian Senators and the Superintendents of two Liberian counties. The delegation was in the United States to participate in the signing of a memorandum between the State of Maryland and Liberia for sister-state relations and the development of economic ties between the two governments. The visit was arranged by Mr. William Connery, who is with the staff of the Washington Times. When USS *Constellation* was the flagship of the African Squadron Liberia was a US protectorate and the capital Monrovia was return point for Africans rescued from slave ships.

The group enjoyed an extended tour of USS *Constellation* and asked many questions about the ship's role in fighting the slave trade. The Museum's staff intends to maintain and develop this historic tie by sending a traveling exhibit on the African Squadron and USS *Constellation's* to Liberia.



Ambassador Charles Minor (4th from right) and the Liberian delegation on board USS Constellation, August 25th, 2007, with Executive Director Christopher Rowsom and Mr. William Connery of the Washington Times.

ANNUAL CREW AND DESCENDANT REUNION

Each year, descendants of crewmembers gather to share their family histories and walk the same decks as their ancestors. On August 25th, the Museum was proud to host 70 descendants of 17 crewmembers from every era of the ship's history.



(left) Descendants of William French and William Leonard, African Squadron Cruise: Dorothy St. Pierre, Beverly Martinoli, Paul Sweeney and Barry St. Pierre

(right, clockwise from the top) Descendants of Charles Cassell, US Naval Academy Training Ship: Sharyn Liddie, Beverley Taylor-Diggs, Mabel Howard, Emily Stuart and Mia Stuart



(left) Ellen Schaefer and daughter, Ellen, in the Captain's Office, where their ancestor, S. Bayard Wilson, Jr. worked during the cruise to Africa.

USS CONSTELLATION CUP & BULL ROAST, SAT., OCTOBER 13TH



Descendant Reunion (continued from cover)



(left) Richard, JoAnn and Jim Crawford, descendants of Alexander Crawford, 1st Mediterranean Cruise

(right) Alice Balassone and Hazel Gregson, descendants of Adolph Heidrich, and Mike Christensen, descendant of Andrew Christensen. Both crewmembers served at Newport Naval Station



USS CONSTELLATION ANNUAL TURN-AROUND CRUISE



On September 14th, USS *Constellation* slipped her lines and made her way down the Patapsco River for her annual salute to Ft. McHenry. Former crewmember LCDR Bruce Kubert, USNR (Ret) and his family were special guests. The Museum would like to thank the Vane Brothers Companies, BACVA, Pintail Yachts, Nautical Destinations, Loane Brothers, Pump & Power Equipment Company and Absolutely Perfect Catering for making this event

(right) LCDR Bruce L. Kubert, USNR(Ret) and his family (from left): Bruce C. Kubert, Jean Nelson, LCDR Kubert, Kate Kubert Puls, Janko Puls



SHIPYARD SCUTTLEBUTT

While this summer's drought was really bad news for Maryland's farmers, the lack of rain has allowed the Restoration crew to make great strides on the deck repair project. What at first appeared to be a small pocket of rot around the fore mast became a major repair. The rot had spread through the decking to the mast partners, the deck beams, and even into the galley house framing. Once all of the affected timbers had been removed, we had a gaping hole in the spar deck all around the foremast. With the 4th of July fast approaching, Shipwright, Tim Fowler, led the crew through long days and weekends to get the job done. Thanks to the big push, the repair was completed in time for the fireworks.



I would like to introduce our new shipwright, Elijah Racicot. Elijah is a talented woodworker and avid bicyclist who joined us in early August to replace Dave Mower. Dave took a job closer to home in Alexandria, VA. Welcome aboard Elijah.

In the process of recaulking the deck we discovered that a lot of loose bungs (wooden plugs covering fastenings) were contributing to our leak problems and needed to be replaced. By the time the repair is finished the crew, with help from volunteers Dennis Grimes, Randy Hall, and Fran Marinaro, will have replaced around 4,000 bungs. That's nearly all of them, but we will finally have a leak free deck!

In addition to the work on the deck, routine maintenance goes on as usual. Joe Lengieza has been spending some time aloft tending to some projects up in the rig. He is rebuilding blocks, replacing topmast shroud lanyards and releading some running rigging to assure that everything stays up there where it belongs. Joanie Murphy has been working on paint and varnish, getting a coat of paint on the hammock rails and ten (yes, ten!) coats of varnish on all of the brightwork. Wear your sunglasses, because it gleams!

Over at the shop in Fell's Point, Bruce MacKenzie and Mark Pettingill, with help from Fresh Start students Travon Griffin and Cherrod MacKall have made a lot of progress on the Quarter Boat. The hull lamination is complete, it has been faired and painted, taken off the molds, and turned right side up in order to complete the interior. Bruce has made and fit all of the floor timbers, put a couple of coats of oil on the hull interior, and he is currently making and fitting the washboard - the top strake of planking into which the bronze oarlocks will be cut. This is one of two boats being built for the ship. We anticipate a May, 2008 launch.



USS Constellation 3rd Cutter under construction
Photo courtesy of Marc Pettingill

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EDUCATION NEWS

Front and center was 2007 SuperKids Camp. Approximately 400 Baltimore City 2nd and 3d graders stepped aboard *Constellation* for reading and language development and a lot of fun. Organized and facilitated by the City's Parks & People Department, SuperKids Camp provides elementary grade students with a variety of enrichment programs designed to reinforce the reading skills they learned through the year and to help ensure the retention of those skills over the summer between semesters. From the last week in June through the first week in August, *Constellation* provided SuperKids campers with daily ship-board programs. These programs reinforced and expanded reading, listening, and vocabulary skills while they offered campers a unique opportunity to learn first-hand about life at sea aboard a 19th century warship. By all accounts, SuperKids campers learned a lot, had a great time, and acquired some of the best memories of their summer aboard *Constellation*.



SuperKids prepare to fire the Parrott Rifle

Constellation's literacy development programs are being offered throughout the year. Half or full-day programs that reinforce reading, listening, and vocabulary development are now available for elementary grades, and the new, African Squadron Reader, aligned with the Maryland State Voluntary Curriculum, is available for 6th through 12th grades.

Overnights are rare during the July and August heat. Nevertheless, this year was an exception, for out of the west came a determined and stalwart group of 21 Boy Scouts from Troop 279, Middletown, Indiana. The Scout motto, "be prepared," was not lost on these overnights, and *Constellation's* crew found them quite prepared to overlook the heat and to get on with the fun. They had a ball! In August 28 newly-selected Navy chiefs from the Annapolis area motored up the bay in their yard patrol craft for a night aboard *Constellation* as part of their "chief's initiation." We welcomed the opportunity to host the chiefs, were honored by their presence, and were gratified they could each share and experience time aboard this ship.

To schedule an overnight adventure or day program for your class or group call 410.539.1797 ex. 466 and visit our website for additional information.

NEW AND RETURNING MUSEUM MEMBERS WELCOME ABOARD!!

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The following companies, foundations, and individuals have made cash and in-kind contributions to the USS *Constellation* Museum
June through August of 2007

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Corporate, Family, and Individual memberships are a great way to support your Museum's education and preservation activities 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; daldridge@constellation.org.
Memberships make terrific gifts too!



THE DECK LOG of USS CONSTELLATION

CURATOR'S CORNER

By the time Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the days of the wooden men-of-war were long gone. USS *Constellation* (IX-20) permanently moored at Naval Training Station, Newport, Rhode Island since 1893 had recently been designated relief flagship of the Atlantic Fleet. America's entry into World War II necessitated tremendous shifts in both naval personnel and organization and *Constellation* was called to serve her country once more. VADM Royal E. Ingersoll the new Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic Fleet (CINCLANT) transferred his flag from the heavy cruiser USS *Augusta* on January 19, 1942, making the last all-sail vessel designed and built by the U.S. Navy the new flagship of the Atlantic Fleet.

For the first 6 months in 1942, the Admiral and his staff directed operations from *Constellation* while awaiting a transfer to the gunboat USS *Vixen*. *Vixen* would give Ingersoll more mobility to properly direct the vessels under his command. USS *Constellation* Museum Curator John Pentangelo recently completed two interviews with members of Ingersoll's staff: Chief Yeoman Eli William Sockey of Otego, NY was interviewed in October, 2006 and the curator spoke with LCDR Bruce Lee Kubert of New York, NY this September. It is unclear whether the two ever interacted with each other but their service in 1942 left them with personal memories of *Constellation* and Admiral Royal E. Ingersoll.

Bruce Kubert was born in Brooklyn, NY in 1918. He attended a preparatory school before majoring in English literature at Yale University. Not long after his graduation in 1940, Bruce's father read an article in the *New York Times* about the Navy's new officer training program for college graduates. Bruce recalled, "The



LT. Bruce L. Kubert, c. 1944

war in Europe was raging and my father intuitively realized that we might be dragged into the war...here was a chance for me to at least be an officer." The V-7 program brought candidates in as apprentice seamen and sent them to a reserve midshipman school for accelerated training. Bruce was appointed a midshipman at his school on the USS *Prairie State*. He graduated the program in February of 1941 and received his commission as ensign.

His first assignment was as a communications watch officer on the staff of Admiral Ernest J. King, CINCLANT. Kubert was in *Augusta's* coding office on December 7, 1941, when another ensign Robert Ryf gave him startling news. "I was working on papers in there...he came in from the coding office and said that a communication has just come through that Pearl Harbor had been bombed and of course that changed everybody's attitude, [everybody's] existence. Everything about our lives had changed." Asked about the mood aboard, Kubert admitted he remembers little about the personal emotion of those around him; "after all we were all doing our duty, we did what we had to do, we obeyed orders and that's it." He continued his duties as a coding officer for Admiral Ingersoll after King was promoted to Chief of Naval Operations and Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet. He soon found himself on board what was then believed to be the Frigate *Constellation*. Just as they had done almost one hundred years earlier, these junior officers lived and ate in the wardroom on the berth deck:

We slept in little cubicles just off the drawing room so there was never any privacy. The room had a bunk, a wash basin, closet space, a door which I don't think could be locked, and a little curtain-making us a little more private from the wardroom. People were coming in and out of the wardroom all night getting their coffee. Obviously, I was able to sleep. I remember the yeoman coming in [during the night] flashing, putting a searchlight in my eyes to wake me up and then I'd crawl over to the coding office and I'd crawl over to the appropriate office [to notify an officer]. If it was about gunnery I'd go over and speak to Commander Moses.... The reason I brought up Moses's name is because he would never stop smoking and he would light a cigarette as soon as he took my message board and fall asleep while he was reading the message with the cigarette dangling from his mouth...even in the shower he had a cigarette in his mouth.

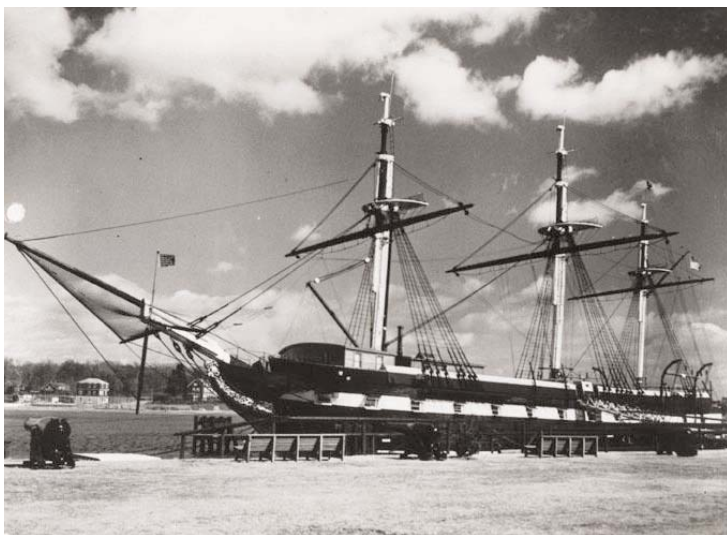
Kubert became a close friend of Admiral Ingersoll and the two frequented the opera together while stationed in Philadelphia. Echoing most descriptions of Ingersoll, Kubert remembers the Admiral as a warm and considerate man. "I remember when he was promoted to Admiral from Vice Admiral. He gave me, and I suppose everyone else, a cigar." He chuckled, "It was the first time I ever tried to smoke a cigar and I was not very successful." Ingersoll's attributes undoubtedly endeared him to the men under his command and they promoted an admiration for his leadership and attention to duty. One such example is found in the Admiral's reaction to the death of his son, Lt. Royal Rodney Ingersoll. The lieutenant was killed aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Hornet* during



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the battle of Midway on June 6, 1942. "I remember when Royal died, the Admiral's son, and how shocked everybody was...the Admiral took the news calmly—without emotion. His wife didn't come to see him. He didn't go to see his wife. It was admirable, it was moving, it was sad—that he wasn't able to express his grief ...it must have been devastating but he was very brave."

After serving on *Constellation*, Kubert was transferred to USS *Vixen* along with the rest of Ingersoll's staff. He was promoted to lieutenant and served aboard USS *Brooklyn* when the ship covered the Anzio landings in 1944. While *Brooklyn* was docked at New York Navy Yard, Kubert was diagnosed with tuberculosis. He retired a lieutenant commander in the United States Naval Reserve while recovering from the illness. He still resides in New York City.



USS Constellation, (IX-20) Naval Station Newport, c. 1942, flying the flag of VADM Royal E. Ingersoll, CINCLANT at the mizzen truck

Bill Sockey was born in Cedar Creek, Oklahoma, in 1920. His father was a full-blooded Choctaw Indian. After attending a business school in Arkansas, Bill worked for a dry goods company. It was February of 1941, when his good friend, James Robert Smallwood, was about to be drafted and influenced Bill to enlist in the Navy with him. "I didn't feel confident about the army," Bill remembered. "Somehow I just didn't like the idea and I felt a ship would be better. I didn't want to get out there in the mud holes and do all those long marches and everything that the army has to do. That's why I joined the Navy."

Bill went to a school for yeomen and storekeepers and soon found himself on the enlisted staff of the Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic Fleet, Admiral Royal Ingersoll. "I was just a young run-about because I was only a seaman and everything they needed me to run for, they'd send me out to do it." On USS *Augusta*, Sockey and crew received notice about the attack on Pearl Harbor. Bill described their reaction with one word: Anger. "We were all upset. We really wanted to get out there and get into battle." Upon America's entry into the war the cruiser *Augusta* was needed at sea because it was a fighting ship. Then Sockey moved to USS *Constellation*. "I remember that the ceilings, overheads, they call them



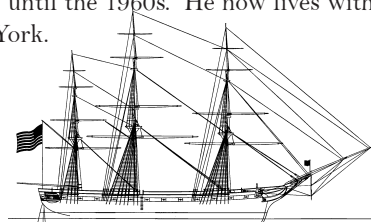
Yeoman Bill Sockey, c. 1943

in the Navy, were low and I had to duck my head because I was six feet tall. The Admiral was a short man so he didn't have any problems walking there."

Sockey was responsible for typing correspondence and filing. He had one distinct duty: "I used to do the typing for the menu for his [Ingersoll's] food on real fancy paper and everything. I did that for him all the time I was on the *Vixen* until I got promoted." Bill and other staff members worked on *Constellation's* gun deck where desks and offices took the place of great guns. "The Admiral had his office at the rear of the ship...in the captain's cabin.... We had Marines on board too and his messenger was a Marine private and he'd just send his messenger out with a letter to be typed, give it to me and I'd type it."

Like Kubert, Sockey also fondly remembers the commander of the Atlantic Fleet: "He was very friendly to the enlisted man. He liked enlisted men. There as one young fellow who didn't seem to be all there for some reason or other and everybody made a joke of him. The Admiral liked him. When he was out scrubbing decks on the ship, the Admiral would go out for his daily tour and he would stop and he would talk to this kid. He was really a very good guy, a nice officer."

After the war, Sockey worked at Naval Torpedo Station Newport as a civil servant. He returned to active duty as a station keeper for United States Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Training Station in both Providence, Rhode Island and Pittsfield, Massachusetts until the 1960s. He now lives with his daughter in Upstate New York.





COLLECTIONS UPDATE

This past summer has seen exciting growth to the Museum's artifact collection. As always, the descendants, members, and even former crewmembers have contacted the curator or dropped by the Museum with fascinating objects that help tell the story of USS *Constellation* and the United States Navy. Most of these generous gifts were significant additions to the collections relating to *Constellation's* service during the Second World War.



Late 19th century dress jumper
Gift of Mr. Robert Cheel

Museum member and long-time supporter, Robert Cheel of Baltimore assisted the Museum with the purchase of white trousers and a white dress jumper from the late nineteenth century. The curator has been trying to grow the Museum's collection of uniforms as this is an underdeveloped part of our collection. Though we are honored to have uniform pieces of former crew members the frock

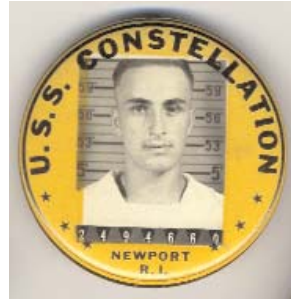
and trousers recently acquired have no known connection to the ship. They are representative of a sailor's whites during the time *Constellation* moved from Annapolis to Newport. Mr. Cheel is currently working to obtain other uniforms and gear from the early twentieth century.

LCDR Bruce L. Kubert USNR (Ret) of New York City, the subject of this newsletter's Curator's Corner, loaned personal photographs and documents from the World War II scrapbook his mother compiled. These included two pictures of Kubert and signed photographs of Admiral Royal E. Ingersoll when he was preparing to leave USS *Augusta* for *Constellation*. The Museum previously acquired a colored photocopy of CINCLANT's junior officers onboard *Constellation*. Kubert loaned his copy of this photograph complete with signatures of his fellow officers and allowed the Museum to make a professional copy for the collection.



ADM Royal Ingersoll, c. 1942
Gift of LCDR Bruce L. Kubert

In July, Mr. Richard Sees of Fayetteville, North Carolina visited the ship to donate some personal items that belonged to his father Gerald Hudson Sees. Sees was a gunner's mate stationed on *Constellation* in 1944. The donation included Sees's military dog tag, a rare *Constellation* ID button with his photo and



Constellation ID Button
Gift of Mr. Richard Sees

service number, and several matchbooks commemorating the ship's 1940 re-commissioning. The Museum has recently learned through another descendant, Mr. Chris Mathews of Grahamsville, NY, that the photo-buttons could be issued to a crewmember's spouse as well. He owns the button his grandmother wore at Newport while visiting the Naval Station.

Finally, the Museum received a wonderful surprise when a package arrived from former crewmember Robert Lennart Johnson of Warwick, Rhode Island. Lenny Johnson was a coxswain 3/c and he was one of the ship's complement when she was transferred from Newport to Boston in 1946. Mr. Johnson provided several personal photographs of he and his shipmates when the ship arrived at her new home. He also helped us identify crewmembers in several other photographs taken on board at this time. In addition to his coxswain badge, Mr. Johnson donated *Constellation's* World War II commissioning pennant (possibly the same one used for the 1940 ceremony). According to Lenny, the pennant was removed by the late Chief Boatswain's Mate Joseph Cintrano of Baltimore prior to getting underway for Boston. Cintrano gave the pennant to Johnson who kept it for over sixty years. The Museum is honored that Johnson has returned this precious artifact to USS *Constellation*.



Constellation's WWII commissioning pennant and coxswain 3rd class badge
Gift of Mr. R. Lennart Johnson

We thank all of the Museum's supporters for their generosity. If you would like to donate an artifact or photograph to the Museum collection please contact the curator, John Pentangelo at (410) 539-1797, ext. 446 or jpentangelo@constellation.org

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.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13TH

Join the Staff, Volunteers, and Members of the USS *Constellation* Museum for a day and evening of sailboat racing, great food, music, and fun at

THE USS CONSTELLATION CUP SAILBOAT REGATTA

AND

THE RESTORATION CREW BULL ROAST AND AWARDS PARTY

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2007 SHIP'S COMPANY DATES:

SEPTEMBER 29, OCTOBER 27

USS *Constellation's* volunteer living history unit of sailors and marines comes aboard to populate the ship and and to provide a unique glimpse into the life and times of the men who served aboard USS *Constellation* in the mid-19th century.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH, NOON

"AND A FEW MARINES" - THE US MARINE CORPS IN THE CIVIL WAR

FEATURED SPEAKER - MR. JOHN BARNARD

The 45 Marines who served on board *Constellation* during the Civil War were a part of a Marine Corps tradition of services that began in 1775. This year the Corps celebrates its 232nd birthday, and *Constellation* is proud to host this presentation of Marine Corps Civil War history.

FALL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SECOND SATURDAY LECTURE SERIES ON BOARD USS CONSTELLATION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13TH, 2:00 PM
CIVIL WAR SUBMARINES

FEATURED SPEAKER: MR. MARK RAGAN

German U-boats certainly did not present the U.S. Navy with its first underwater challenge. During the American Civil War, fear of Confederate underwater vessels presented a fearsome prospect and undeterminable threat to Union ships of the Charleston, S.C. blockading squadron. Mark Ragan, Hunley Project Historian, focuses on the South's determined efforts to wage under water warfare.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

"FESTIVITIES, DIPLOMACY & NATIONAL
DAY OF THANKSGIVING

CONSTELLATION ON FOREIGN STATION" I

In 1863, just a few months after the Battle of Gettysburg, President Lincoln invited all "fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of thanksgiving." Stationed in the Mediterranean, the crew of the *Constellation* celebrated this first general Thanksgiving Day in Spezia, Italy. Join Mary Eastman and Wendy Taparanskas, Ph.D., as they provide a unique, first-hand opportunity to view this little-known aspect of *Constellation's* Civil War history.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9; NOON

"CONSTELLATION'S RESTORATION"

FEATURED SPEAKER: PAUL POWICHROSKI

Constellation's Ship's Manager leads a walking tour through the ship focusing on the architectural challenges and triumphs of shipbuilding and craftsmanship that were part of USS *Constellation's* restoration.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, NOON TO 4 PM

DESERT NAVIGATION AFLOAT

PRESENTED BY LCDR RICK GAY, USCG

Explore the impact desert travelers had on maritime navigation. Join LCDR Rick Gay, USCG, as he explains the contributions made by desert navigators to their oceanic cousins, including various instruments used to obtain the height of the sun or stars when determining a ship's position. Among the timely and engaging subjects addressed are: the Star of Bethlehem - fact or fiction; and the Wise Men, who were they?



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