FIRST LIGHT, ARITIME SOCIETY

Building on the History of Our Coast

Dear Members and Friends,

Our volunteer, Tim Jackson, just donated a remarkable, never before seen, Stereopticon view (circa 1874) of someone who may be Head Keeper William Russell. He is the light keeper who transitioned the St. Augustine Light Station from the old coquina tower to the current brick tower. In the photo (see below) you can see the current tower being built. Do you see the large building for housing the workers? This is not today's Keeper's House. Russell must be standing near the Old Spanish Watchtower which was lit in April of 1824 as Florida's first lighthouse.

I imagine that Russell saw this new lighthouse as wonderfully progressive. I can almost see him in the old tower loading up the whale oil, carefully adjusting the wick and lighting lamps in the sleepy old tower for the last time. He knew that the next night he would walk the path to the new watchful sentinel, climb 219 freshly painted steps and light the lamp in the new lens. The brilliance of our lens shining new must have been awe-inspiring across the October night sky!

Today at the lighthouse, we work hard to preserve this history. Tourists help us by providing revenue for fresh paint, helping hands and the discovery of new stories. This year our lighthouse family has experienced some major milestones. We also said goodbye to former museum director Cullen Chambers who worked here between 1989 and 1994. Cullen steered the Junior Service League (JSL) restoration of the Light Station and Fresnel lens to its present glory. I am proud and humbled to have called this bright, funny and amazing man a friend and mentor. He was a light who allowed others to shine.

We miss him and will remember him always.

This year, our staff really put their shoulders to the fly wheel and from the Federal government, the State of Florida and the St. Johns County Tourist Development

Council, we received grant awards totaling \$1,033,631.00 for building preservation, exhibitions about maritime archaeology and advertising. We are building on that tremendous foundation given to us by Cullen and the women of the JSL. So, Happy 80th Birthday, JSL! Thank you for your continued support, love and spirit. Finally, we would like to thank State Senator John Thrasher, Representative Doc Renuart and Representative Travis Hutson for your

leadership and care. We all look forward to discovering new stories in maritime history for a long time to come. We promise to continue to keep your light shining and to keep discovering new ways to share old stories about our shared past.

Happy 190th Birthday St. Augustine Light Station! Here's to many more!

Harry A. Steming

Kathy A. Fleming Executive Director, First Light Maritime Society





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A DROP IN THE OCEAN: Searching for the Lost French Fleet of 1565 In the vast Atlantic Ocean, how do you search for a fleet of ships that sank nearly 450 years ago? Our lighthouse archaeology team took on the monumental task of searching for Jean Ribault's lost French fleet this summer with support from the State of Florida, National Park Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Find out how they used historical research and technological science to mount this monumental expedition.



LOCKED IN Learn more about this interesting artifact recovered from the "Storm Wreck" and currently under conservation.



LIGHTHOUSE BOATWORKS Our incredibly talented boatworks volunteers are hard at work on three unique projects.



FIELD SCHOOL OF DREAMS Eleven students from around the globe joined us for another successful year of underwater archaeology field school.



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

34 A BANNER YEAR

A new chapter in our museum's history has begun with new grants and appropriations.

38 FUN FOR ALL AND ALL FOR FUN More summer camp scholarships were offered this year than ever before!

40 SPECIAL OPS

New grants are helping us continue the preservation of the tower and lens.

42 SHIFTING TIDES

Celebrating the changing tides on with our board and staff this year.

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Memberships and brick sales are providing more resources for the museum.

46 MEMBER AND DONOR SUPPORT





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Spyglass

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Research and interpretive programs are aimed at discovery and dissemination of knowledge in keeping with the museum's educational, nonprofit mission.

To inquire about permission to use our works and intellectual property in the classroom, for your research or for other public or non-profit uses please contact us in writing:

ATTN: PR Department St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum 81 Lighthouse Avenue St. Augustine, FL 32080.

BRINGING HISTORY TO

by Paul Zielinski 🦵

VISITOR TO TODAY'S ST. AUGUSTINE Lighthouse might navigate to the site using their GPS system, alert their friends and family to their activity through their social media network, or redeem their electronically purchased tickets in our Visitors' Center.

Technology has become a part of our lives and it enhances how our guests enjoy their visit. Our newest exhibit, *At Home with the Harns*, incorporates technology into a Victorian setting, allowing our 21st century audience to connect to our 19th century subjects through a familiar, content-rich medium.

The exhibit focuses on the lives and experiences of four people who lived at the lighthouse in 1888. William Harn was head keeper, responsible for the operation of the lighthouse and overseeing his assistant and second assistant keepers in that task.

William's wife, Kate, kept the house in order and managed the daily tasks, like cooking, sewing and gardening that kept the family fed and clothed.

Ida Harn, one of William and Kate's six daughters, attended school and assisted Kate with the chores.



Guests can learn more about the new exhibit through this panel in the Visitors' Center.

Jerome Lopez served as second assistant keeper, which required extensive manual labor, as he carried oil to the top of the tower and helped William keep the light in working order.

To give visitors a modern perspective and

the benefits of scholarly hindsight, the exhibit features a fifth character, fictional present-day archaeologist James Willey. Named after distinguished archaeologists James Deetz and Gordon Willey, this character gives visitors an academic perspective on life at the Light Station in the late 19th century.

Willey and the other characters form the prism through which our visitors experience this time in lighthouse history, learning the responsibilities and experiences of keepers, assistants, wives and children.

The visitor experience centers on a new motion sensor technology that allows access to expanded content delving deeper into these characters' stories and experiences. Each station consists of an electronic screen and a number of motion sensing squares. Each square displays a logo corresponding to a character.

To learn more about a character, a visitor simply waves his or her hand over the square, and the content appears on the screen. A visitor can then choose which content interests them and learn about the things that are important to them.

A visitor interested in the responsibility of



lighthouse keepers might follow William through the exhibit and learn about his daily life. Kate's experiences might appeal to a visitor intrigued by the role of women in a working class 19th century household.

Younger visitors interested in the lives of children at the lighthouse can follow Ida. Jerome might pique the interest of a visitor who enjoys the history of the working class. People looking for a scholarly perspective can learn from James Willey.

Each interactive station addresses a specific part of everyday life at the St. Augustine Lighthouse. Visitors enter through the Harn's rear hallway, where boots and shoes left by the backdoor serve as evidence of their occupancy, as though the family was sitting and resting in the next room after a long workday.

The hallway includes pictures of keepers' families through the years and the one photograph we have of Kate Harn and her daughters in the years after they moved back to Maine (*see photo above*).



The interactive station in the hallway introduces our guests to this family and the other characters they will encounter in the exhibit.

The other rooms feature interactive components as well. The stations in the dining room address the activities common in that area of the house. Ida and the other daughters would complete schoolwork there, with Kate helping and William approving of their educational pursuits. Above: Keepers' House shortly after construction was completed in 1876.

Left: Kate Harn (far left) with her family in Maine including daugthers Ida, Grace and Katherine (middle row, left to right) and Ruby and Charlotte (bottom row, at right).

The interactive buffet addresses the variety of silverware available to the working class in the 19th century, which, as Willey explains, is a product of the post- Civil War industrial boom.

The formal parlor interactive component discusses the prominent role Kate and the girls played entertaining Victorian guests to the lighthouse, while the laborers like Jerome Lopez were not often included.

THE THE LEGACY



HEN WE BEGAN WORKING ON the new exhibit, one of the hurdles we faced was a lack of photography from the Harns' time at the light station. With no available photos of William Harn to utilize in the exhibit, we decided to go for the next best available option: his great-grandson.

Dave Reed and his wife Jan have been volunteers at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum for years. Much of the Reeds' service has included tracing their family history back through Dave's grandmother, Ida Harn, and great-grandparents, William and Kate.

Knowing that we would need a model to stand in for William in the exhibit, Dave seemed the clear choice to represent his family legacy. He was honored to take on the important role.

Although Dave and Jan were unable to attend the exhibit grand opening, their son, Col. Karl Reed, joined us to represent the Harn family. He also presented a special military challenge coin to keynote speaker Ed Bearss. Bearss served in the U.S. Marine Corps during WWII and was severely injured while fighting in the southern Pacific.

The Reed family still hails from Maine, where the Harn family originated as well. Kate Harn returned to Maine shortly after William's passing from tuberculosis in 1880. Several of the Harn daughters, including Ida, had already relocated back to the family's home state.

But just because the Harns were back in Maine doesn't mean they lost some of their Southern ways. Dave recalls his grandmother, Ida, cooking grits, which is a Southern delicacy not often seen in Maine.

Dave and Jan still reside in Maine during part of the year, but make an annual pilgrimmage to spend part of the cold winters in Florida where they continue to volunteer their time at the lighthouse. The house's front entrance hallway traces William Harn's experiences during the Civil War. Harn served as the leader of the 3rd NY Independent Artillery. He was present during the first shots fired on Fort Sumter to the Battle of Appomattox, the final conflict of the war. He rose to the title of Brevet Major during his service to the Union.

All of the interactive stations are set within a Victorian household and populated with items from the time. Among the decorations inside, observers might notice the curious Victorian tradition of hair art.

In the late 1800s, people would often curl and braid hair into intricate designs and mount them into a picture frame, sometimes as a way to commemorate a deceased loved one.

Our Director of Collections, Kathleen Mc-Cormick, crafted the hair art featured in this exhibit with hair donated by staff and their families.

Our new exhibit, with its combination of traditional Victorian sensibilities and modern technological interaction, immerses our visitors in an educational experience that addresses and develops their interest while exposing them to the lives and responsibilities of keepers and their families at the St. Augustine Lighthouse in the late 19th century.

Guests can explore this historic house at their own pace and according to their interests, while using familiar technology to dig deeper into the historical narrative. During their explorations, William, Kate, Ida, Jerome and James serve as windows into the experiences of the people of the lighthouse.



A guest selects a panel on Jerome Lopez in the dining room interactive.

COLLECTIONS: Behind the Scenes

THE PURPOSE OF A MUSEUM IS TO tell the history of a specific topic. Everything within its grounds is designed to educate the public on that topic. Museums do this through the interpretation of artifacts, oral histories and historical documents. These items are referred to as the museum's collection and are used for exhibition, research and educational programs.

The lighthouse museum's focus is on the maritime history of St. Augustine from its earliest beginnings to the present. The collection is comprised of over 7,000 artifacts including wood working tools, photographs, cannons, a breeches buoy, books, lenses and boat models.

Of course, the largest and by far most valued piece in our collection is the lighthouse itself!

All of the items in collections have been acquired over the years from the keepers and their families, the U.S. Coast Guard, local families and our own archaeologists.

Many of the artifacts are placed on display for the public to view. We currently have exhibits that highlight the work of the keepers, the lives of their families and the wrecks off the coast. However, the whole collection cannot be displayed all at once.

So, where are all of these pieces?

The truth is, when you enter a museum as a visitor you see less than a quarter of what it has to offer.

Think of the museum as you would view a house. Things are stored away for safe keeping or there is not shelf space or they are items only pulled out for holidays or special occasions. This is exactly how a museum operates.

We have the space to put about 30% of our artifacts on exhibit. As we endeavor to tell new stories the exhibits are rotated to make room for new ones.

The objects in the cases are evaluated for any damage caused by fluctuating temperatures, humidity, light damage or other signs of deterioration. They are then rehoused and sent to our offsite collections building for storage.

By Barbara Holland

The collections building serves as storage for artifacts, a research library and a small conservation lab. As our collection has grown, we've found ourselves in new, larger facility.

We are currently in transition to this fresh space. The new collections building has a storage area for the artifacts. The entire collection is in a controlled environment and is monitored for corrosion, pests and any other forms of decay.

Protecting and preserving the collection is a big part of our museum operations and mission.

We are caretakers of history and look forward to sharing these pieces with future generations.



Top: Our collection includes this painting of "Papa" Joe Sanchez; **Center:** A hand drill used by past lightkeepers, was donated to the collections by Board Trustee Peter Spiller; **Bottom:** A navigational tool known as a stadimeter is part of our maritime collection as well.





AN EVENING with the HARNS

ON OCTOBER 2, 2012, THE ST. AUGUSTINE LIGHTHOUSE & MUSEUM WELCOMED SPECIAL GUEST ED BEARSS, CHEF HISTORIAN EMERITUS FOR THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, FOR A VICTORIAN-THEMED EVENING TO CELEBRATE THE GRAND OPENING OF OUR NEW EXHIBIT,

At Home With the Harns.



Guest speaker Ed Bearss chatted with Board of Trustees Secretary Judy Burnett Albright outside the Keepers' House, before the event.



Over 75 guests joined us for a delicious meal under the stars and twinkling white lights on the Keepers' House front lawn.

Volunteers Rebecca, Linda and Brenda helped serve guests at our members-only preview of the new Harn exhibit.



During the event, guests browsed the exhibit and learned more about the Harn family's life through six interactive panels. Bearss visited with lighthouse volunteer Linda, who is also a former member of the National Park Service.





Col. Karl Reed, great-great-grandson of William Harn, presented Bearss, a Marine Corps Veteran, with a military challenge coin.



Bearss captivated the crowd with stories from the Battle of Gettysburg, one of several Civil War battles Harn took part in.

Guests were seated beneath the ancient oak boughs outside the Keepers' House for the Victorian-themed event.



Col. Reed, whose parents Jan and Dave both volunteer at the museum, posed with volunteer Bev in the new Harn parlor.

Professor Thomas Graham from Flagler College provided a wonderful introduction for our keynote speaker, Bearss.



Dear Staff of the St. Augustine Lighthouse Thank you So much for offering our youth group a place to come and Serve the community and learn about the amazing history of the lighthouse. We hope to come again! -Brian Horning and Oasis Lutheran Youth Fellowship

Top left: Students from the Flagler College Cross Country team assisted with set-up for our exhibit grand opening. Above left: The Lutheran Youth Fellowship helped garden by the lighthouse (and sent us a wonderful thank you note!). Above right: Flagler students helped clean-up after the Harn exhibit opening.

Group effort by Helly Stewart & Loni Wellman

VOLUNTEERING DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A SOLO TASK! CHECK OUT THESE GREAT GROUPS WHO MADE VOLUNTEERING AT OUR MUSEUM A TEAM-BUILDING EXERCISE.

IKE MANY NON-PROFIT ORGANIZAtions, volunteers are an important piece of the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum. Currently, we have over 200 individual volunteers that do everything from gardening to cleaning our beautiful lens. They research, build boats, stand watch at the top and base of the tower, help with our summer camp, and everything in between. We are very proud of our diverse volunteer program that has something for everyone.

Each volunteer becomes a lighthouse family member. We can see the genuine care that people have for the lighthouse and its community. Our volunteers are an integral part of what keeps the lighthouse one of the "must see" historic places in St. Augustine.

Last year alone, volunteers donated over 17,000 hours to the lighthouse; which equates to about \$390,000 according to the National Value of Volunteer Time. Being a non-profit organization, the lighthouse really appreciates all the extra work that the community puts in through volunteering. It not only helps the financial side, but it also demonstrates how the lighthouse is extremely supported by the local community. Our volunteers are broken into five categories. The adult volunteer group is our largest and encompasses all who are over the age of 18. Interns at the lighthouse are enrolled in college and want to supplement their education with hands on experience. Our junior volunteers are between the ages of 14 and 17 and younger children are welcome to volunteer with their families.

The last set, group volunteers, are an emerging category of volunteer. Group volunteers can come from corporations, military branches, churches, colleges, and community organizations. The lighthouse will work with interested groups on identifying specific projects that will directly benefit both the group and the museum.

We have been lucky enough to have the U.S. Coast Guard come out and paint our World War II-era USCG Barracks. The Oasis Lutheran Youth Fellowship from Decatur, Indiana, came out this summer and worked on the site.

Most recently, the Flagler College Cross Country team as well as the Flagler College Phi Alpha Omega chapter helped out with the signature event *An Evening with the Harns*. Without the help from our outstanding volunteers, there is no way the lighthouse would be able to function as it does today.

Lighthouse volunteers, after donating a certain number of hours, are also offered benefits. They receive a membership to the museum, free admission, invitations to member only events and are invited to two recognition events every year.

In addition to the tangible benefits, volunteering with a group generates team building skills and good will amongst group members. It also allows groups to develop a personal relationship with the community. It can raise the visibility of your group as well as create positive perceptions in the community.

Through volunteering at the lighthouse, St. Augustine preserves and shares part of its community and its history.

If you are a member of a group who would like to complement your contribution to the community through volunteer service, please contact Loni Wellman, Volunteer and Special Projects Coordinator, at 904.829.0745 ext. 213 or at lwellman@ staugustinelighthouse.org. making memories by Kelly Stewart

WO-HUNDRED AND NINETEEN steps to the top of the St. Augustine Lighthouse can be quite a challenge. Now imagine climbing those 219 steps six times in a row; that comes out to be 1,314 steps not including climbing back down. Who would take on such a feat? Six-year old Charlie Cortese. Charlie is the son of lighthouse members John and Diane Cortese. As it so happens, Charlie's birthday falls on the Independence, and this past July 4th he made an interesting request to his family concerning how he wanted to celebrate his birthday.

Charlie asked his family to climb the lighthouse six times in honor of how many years he has been alive. The Cortese family accepted the challenge and did just that. They actually enjoyed the family experience so much that they have decided to make it an annual tradition. Every year, they will climb to the top of the St. Augustine Lighthouse one more time than the previous year.

This means that next July 4th, the Cortese family is going for seven climbs to the top. This brings their grand total of steps to 1,533! 16

John and Diane have recently joined the lighthouse with an annual family plus membership. Once their four-year old son became tall enough to climb the tower, the family thought it was time to become a part of the bigger lighthouse family.

The Corteses believe that supporting local businesses and attractions is extremely important, especially because they are business owners themselves.

"As local business owners of the Cellular Phone Hospital, we realize that if we want our community to continue to thrive and flourish, we need to step up to support the lighthouse and our local economy," said Diane.

In addition to climbing the lighthouse, the Cortese family is also looking forward to taking advantage of all the programs that the lighthouse has to offer.

Being a former social studies teacher, John enjoys keeping up with the research, dives, archaeology and history of St. Augustine that the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program (LAMP) uncovers.

Diane is most passionate about the historic preservation efforts taking place on the

grounds of the Light Station. The lighthouse does its best to keep the grounds, museum, and tower well maintained.

Lastly, John and Diane's two sons, Charlie and Emmitt (pictured at right with Diane), are interested in the summer camps the lighthouse offers. It is a great way to get kids interacting with the history of St. Augustine while having fun at the same time.

Overall, the family enjoys learning the stories behind the lighthouse and interacting with the volunteers and staff. The lighthouse is a great way to spend time with the family and the Coreteses plan on doing just that.

With their new membership, the Cortese family is planning on "Exploring the lighthouse several times a month to explore, learn, climb, picnic, and play!" says Diane.

We hope many more families will start creating their own family traditions at the lighthouse as well.

If you're interested in becoming a member of the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum, call us at (904) 829-0745 or visit www.staugustinelighthouse.org.

Charlie Cortese and his family began a new birthday tradition this year, climbing the lighthouse six times to celebrate his sixth birthday.

> Charlie (center) with his brother Emmitt and his mom Diane. Photo courtesy of the Cortese family

A DEPINTHE DEEAN

HOW DID LIGHTHOUSE ARCHAEOLOGISTS USE HISTORY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO SEARCH FOR THE LOST FRENCH FLEET OF 1565?

LAT



by Chuck Meide

IN THE SUMMER OF 2014, LIGHTHOUSE ARCHAEOLOGISTS SET OUT TO FIND JEAN RIBAULT'S ILL-FATED FRENCH FLEET. IF FOUND, THESE SHIPS WOULD BE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SHIPWRECK DISCOVERY IN THE NEW WORLD. **BUT IN THE VAST OCEAN, HOW DO YOU EVEN BEGIN TO SEARCH FOR A FLEET OF 449 YEAR-OLD SUNKEN SHIPS?**

E VERY FLORIDA FOURTH GRADER knows the story of the French Huguenots who came to settle Florida under the command of Jean Ribault.

The first settlers who voyaged to America seeking freedom from religious persecution, the French at Fort Caroline in presentday Jacksonville, came to a dramatic and bloody end with the arrival of their bitter enemy, a Spanish Catholic force under command of Pedro Menéndez.

SHOWDOWN BETWEEN RIVALS

The showdown between the rival powers played out under a sudden and tremendous storm, which wrecked the French galleons and resulted in the massacre by Menéndez of the shipwrecked survivors. This tragedy dashed the hopes of the French in Florida, and it would instead be the Spanish that founded the first and oldest city in America, St. Augustine, in 1565.

Next year will mark the 450th anniversary of these formative events, when this Florida

story will become an American story and capture the national imagination. There is no better time to begin the search for these lost ships than now.

PERSONAL PASSION PROJECT

As a Northeast Florida native who grew up in the Jacksonville Beaches, this story resonated with me as a schoolchild, and when I began to study maritime archaeology as a college student I realized that the lost French fleet was the Holy Grail of Florida's undersea archaeology.

When I joined the Lighthouse team as the Director of the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program (LAMP) in 2006, I knew that we were in a perfect position to search for these ships. What shipwrecks could be more relevant to the story of our nation's oldest port, than these French ships? If there had been no French colony in Jacksonville, there would have been no Spanish settlement in St. Augustine.

If Ribault's four largest ships had not at-

tacked St. Augustine on that fateful September day, and had not been wrecked by that furious storm, then our oldest port would have been French rather than Spanish. For me, the search for these shipwrecks has been a lifelong dream.

SEARCHING FOR CLUES

But where to begin the search? Without some indication of a final resting place, searching for a particular shipwreck in the great blue sea is like looking for a needle in an ocean of haystacks.

Fortunately, we have some clues from Pedro Menéndez himself, and some from the French shipwreck survivors. Menéndez interrogated the French castaways before he famously put them to the sword at Matanzas, and from them he learned about the circumstances of the shipwrecks.

He reported this to the King on 15 October 1565 in a letter that survives to this day in the Spanish archives in Seville. His description suggests that Ribault's three smaller ships wrecked together somewhere south of Ponce Inlet, and that Ribault's flagship, Trinité, was wrecked a little further to the south, closer to Cape Canaveral.

Corroborating evidence was found in the early 1970s when a group of relic hunters searching with metal detectors began to make interesting finds along the Intracoastal Waterway, on land that is now the Canaveral National Seashore. While it is usually the case that archaeologists lament the activities of such treasure hunters, whose non-scientific digging often scrambles our understanding of archaeological sites, in this case one of the relic hunters realized the importance of their finds and decided to share their discoveries with professionals.

Doug Armstrong, the de facto leader of the group, came to the conclusion that the artifacts they were finding—French and Spanish coins dating to the 1550s and 1560s, spikes and fittings salvaged from ship timbers, and the remains of tools, weaponry and clothing—were probably related to the 1565 French shipwrecks.

Once archaeologists saw these finds, they agreed, especially after the National Park Service's Southeast Archeological Center excavated the Armstrong Site, as it was now known, in 1995. The conclusion was that these bits and pieces were all that was left of a French shipwreck survivors' camp.

It seemed logical to us that the survivors' camp would be close to one or more of the shipwrecks, yet no one had ever searched the waters off this part of Canaveral National Seashore. We were determined that this was the place to search.

PLANNED PARTNERSHIPS

Working with us was David Howe of the Institute of Maritime History, which was providing us the research vessel *Roper*, and Dr. John de Bry of the Center for Historical Archaeology, who shared with us twenty years of documentary research from the French archives. We were sure we had the right spot, and we knew we had the right people, equipment, and boat.

But archaeology is expensive, especially underwater, and what we needed was funding.

Fortunately, this was a compelling story,

and it was the right time to tell it. With an outburst of community support in the form of enthusiastic letters from interested citizens in St. Augustine, Jacksonville, and beyond, we were able to secure a grant for almost \$50,000 from the State of Florida's Division of Historical Resources, and a second grant for \$49,000 from NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration.

With funding in hand, permits had to be acquired, and we presented the project research design to the National Park Service. Park Service officials were concerned about the negative impact the publicity of the project could have on their mission of protecting the archaeological sites in the National Seashore, but they were very excited about the research and supportive of the project.

After hammering out all the details in our permit, representatives of the National Park Service joined us at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum for a joint press conference to announce the project to the world.

THE SEARCH IS ON!

Planning for an extended archaeological survey in a relatively remote area is not an easy task. We divided the project into three separate research cruises, with a crew of four living at sea on the *Roper* for the duration of each cruise. The first cruise took place on July 14-20, and its mission was to scan the search area with high-tech remote sensing devices. The search area covered a five nautical mile long stretch of coastline, centered on the Armstrong Site and stretched out to sea almost a half-mile. We divided it up into 38 lanes spaced 20 meters apart, and spent our week at sea driving back and forth, multiple times, slowly covering each lane while towing a magnetometer, sidescan sonar and subbottom profiler. We were able to complete 35 of 38 lanes before the water became too shallow to safely access with our vessel, for a total of 175 miles of survey.

The next two cruises focused primarily on diving operations, and they ran back-toback, on August 7-12 and 13-18. Before departing, we had immersed ourselves in the analysis of magnetic and sonar data we had collected.

While the sonar can give us a view of the seafloor and a glimpse beneath the sand, the most important of our sensing tools is the magnetometer, which detects the presence of iron or steel in or under the seabed. Five magnetic targets seemed most likely to represent historic shipwrecks, and these were the focus of diving operations.

We knew from the sonar imagery that all of our magnetic targets were buried in the sand. When diving, we use a handheld magnetometer to zero-in on the strongest part of the magnetic anomaly. Then we switch to a low-tech device, a water-powered probe, to penetrate beneath the sand. This consists of a ten-foot long section of pipe connected by hose to a water pump on the



boat. The pipe jets water out and when thrust into the sand sinks down like a hot knife through butter.

At least, until it hits a layer of broken shells, at which point it takes some real muscle to force it all the way down, to its full length. Usually at least 40 probe holes are punched at each target, in order to ensure that if there is any significant amount of buried wreckage present we will find it.

Over the eight days of diving, we completed around 300 probes over the course of 57 dives for a total of 38 hours and 51 minutes of diving time.

A HOPEFUL FIND

The most exciting moment of the project came late one afternoon at the start of Cruise 3. We knew from the storm clouds on the horizon that this would be our last dive of the day. The two divers down were Starr Cox and Olivia McDaniel, and they were probing a magnetic anomaly designated Target E3T.

This was their first dive on the project, and their first time probing. Just as we were about to recall the divers due to the impending storm, they surfaced, yelling across the water:

"We found a concretion!"

Immediately, there was a buzz of excitement on the boat, and it was with great reluctance that we helped the divers up out of the water before the storm came. A concretion is a term shipwreck archaeologists use for an iron or steel object that has become concreted or encrusted with corrosion and marine products.

Whatever it was, it was definitely manmade and the source of the magnetic target. All night long we talked about the possibilities, unable to contain the excitement in our voices.

The next day we had a team in the water at sunrise, hauling down with them a dredge system to carefully dig around and expose the unknown object. After a few hours of work, a large object was successfully exposed on the seafloor. LAMP archaeologist Brendan Burke recognized it as a corroded steel fuel tank, probably from a shrimp boat dating to the WWII era or later. So we had an old shrimp boat wreck, not a 16th-century French wreck. Not exactly the discovery we had been hoping for!

But finding shipwrecks is not easy. The rest of the cruise alternated between bouts of excitement and disappointment as we unearthed more modern wreckage or nothing at all at four additional targets. We stopped diving only for thunderstorms and at the end of the day, sometimes after sunset, when we were exhausted and ready for dinner and sleep.

It was at those times that we could really envision what it must have been like for the French soldiers and sailors cast away on these shores, when we were surrounded by black clouds and rumbling thunder, or when we were anchored calmly in the moonlight within earshot of that same crashing surf that Ribault's men heard so many centuries ago as they crawled out of the sea and collapsed onto the sand.

THE SEARCH CONTINUES

As our project came to a close and we weighed anchor for St. Augustine, we could not help feeling disappointment at not finding the shipwreck we all wanted, even though we knew it was a long shot from the start.

But the only way to find it is to look. We have another fourteen potential magnetic targets in our survey area, and the will to persevere.

Over the next nine months, as we continue data analysis and write our research reports, we will seek further funding, and with any luck we will return to continue to search for the lost French fleet.

When I began to study maritime archaeology as a college student, I realized that the lost French fleet was the Holy Grail of Florida's undersea archaeology.

- CHUCK MEIDE

EXPEDITION TEAM



CHUCK MEIDE Director of LAMP



DR. SAM TURNER Director of Archaeology



STARR COX Archaeologist



BRIAN MCNAMARA Volunteer Archaeologist



JOHN DE BRY Director, Center for Historical Archaeology



BRENDAN BURKE Archaeologist



OLIVIA MCDANIEL Archaeologist



DAVID HOWE, J.D. Captain, Institute of Maritime History

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR HELP WITH THE FRENCH FLEET EXPEDITION:

MYRNA PALFREY Canaveral National Seashore

EDWIN CORREA Canaveral National Seashore

DR. DAVE CONLIN National Park Service Submerged Resources Center

BERT HO National Park Service Submerged Resources Center

DR. DAVID MORGAN National Park Service Southeast Archeological Center

FRANK CANTELAS NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration

JEFF ENRIGHT SEARCH, Inc.

MIKE POTTER Noah's Ark Marine Repair, Cocoa

PAM BRANGACCIO City of New Smyrna Beach

JOHN BAUCHMAN City Marina, New Smyrna Beach

BRUCE PIATEK Volusia County and the Florida Historical Society Archaeological Institute

CHESAPEAKE TECHNOLOGY, INC. *Manufacturers of SonarWiz software*

JOE BURNETT, HYPACK, Inc.

DR. GREG COOK University of West Florida

DR. ROGER SMITH State of Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research

STACEY CAHAN State of Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation

GRANT GELHARDT State of Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation

XYNIDES BOATYARD St. Augustine

RICK MEATYARD Tall Timbers Marina, Maryland



What events led to the ultimate battle between Spain's Pedro Menéndez de Avilés and France's Jean Ribault?

18 FEBRUARY 1562

Jean Ribault, with René Laudonnière second in command, departs France with two ships and around 150 men for the first colonization attempt in Florida.

1 MAY 1562

The French make landfall at the presentday St. Johns River (Jacksonville, Florida) and spend several days exploring the countryside and trading with the local Timucuan Indians.

11 JUNE 1562

The French ships depart for France, leaving behind around 30 men at Charlesfort, present-day Parris Island, S.C. The men left behind eventually make an attempt to sail back to France. They are eventually rescued off England's coast in late October 1563.

JULY 1562

Ribault and Laudonnière return to find France engulfed in a religious civil war, and are unable to return with supplies for the men left at Charlesfort.

19 MARCH 1563

A truce is mediated in France, resulting in end of the First War of Religion.

EARLY JUNE 1563

Ribault is imprisoned by Queen Elizabeth in the Tower of London, where he remains until the fall of 1564 or possibly early 1565.

22 APRIL 1564

Captain René Laudonnière leads the second colonization attempt in Florida, departing La Havre with three ships and 300 settlers.

24 JUNE 1564

The French under Laudonnière begin construction of Fort Caroline in present-day Jacksonville.

28 JULY 1564

With the establishment of Fort Caroline, Laudonnière orders his ships to return to France, with a request for a re-supply fleet to arrive by spring 1565.

DECEMBER 1564

Sixty-six mutinous settlers hijack two sailing barkes and sail from Fort Caroline to commit piracy in the Spanish Caribbean, alerting Spanish authorities to the French settlement in Florida.

JUNE 1565

With virtually all food supplies exhausted, relations with Timucuans broken down and turned violent, and losing hope of reinforcements from France, Laudonnière decides Fort Caroline must be evacuated.

14 JUNE 1565

Ribault begins the voyage across the Atlantic with a re-supply fleet carrying 500 soldiers, 200 sailors, and as many as 300 colonists, along with armament, munitions, livestock, equipment, and supplies.

29 JUNE 1565

Pedro Menéndez departs Spain with a fleet to intercept Ribault. His armada is beset by storms and is reduced to five damaged ships and 500 soldiers, 200 sailors, and 100 colonists.



3 AUGUST 1565

An English fleet lead by John Hawkins visits Fort Caroline. The French, facing "hideous famine," trade cannon and gunpowder for food and a ship in which they plan to sail to France.

28 AUGUST 1565

Just as Laudonnière and his men are loaded and ready to abandon Fort Caroline for France, Ribault arrives with the re-supply fleet. On that same day, Menéndez arrives at the coast of Florida, around Cape Canaveral, landing 4 days later to seek information from Indians as to the location of the French.

4 SEPTEMBER 1565

Menéndez' fleet of five ships arrives off the St. Johns River and encounters Ribault's four largest ships. They exchange cannon fire and the French ships cut their anchor lines to make a quick escape.

7 SEPTEMBER 1565

The Spanish, unable to disembark at the well-defended St. Johns, return to St. Augustine and land troops to dig entrenchments and begin fortifying defensive positions.

8 SEPTEMBER 1565

Menéndez lands and formally founds the settlement of St. Augustine. His men begin unloading the two largest ships in order to send them back to Hispaniola. Meanwhile, Ribault launches a preemptive strike, loading his four largest ships and setting sail to attack St. Augustine.

10 OR 11 SEPTEMBER 1565

Within hours of the departure of Menéndez' two largest ships, Ribault's fleet arrives at St. Augustine and almost captures Menéndez in a smaller vessel which barely makes it across the St. Augustine bar. Unable to enter the inlet with his heavy ships, Ribault pursues the recently departed Spanish ships to the south.

11 OR 12 SEPTEMBER 1565

A fierce storm strikes the coast, driving the French fleet south towards Cape Canaveral and shipwrecking them all.

18 SEPTEMBER 1565

Menéndez takes advantage of the storm, which he knows will prevent the French fleet from returning north even if they remain afloat, and marches his men overland to Fort Caroline.

20 SEPTEMBER 1565

Fort Caroline is taken by Menéndez' troops in a surprise attack at dawn. Around 130 Frenchmen are killed outright, 45 to 60 more (including Laudonnière and Ribault's son Jacques) escape, and around 50 women and children are spared. The fort is manned by Spanish troops and renamed Fort San Mateo.

25 SEPTEMBER 1565

The French survivors from Fort Caroline scuttle their smaller vessels, and set sail for France in the two remaining ships from Ribault's fleet, which had stayed at the Fort.

29 SEPTEMBER 1565

Two groups of French shipwreck survivors slowly make their way north overland from their shipwrecks in the Canaveral area, seeking refuge at the now captured Ft. Caroline. The first group encounters Menéndez' troops in the vicinity of Matanzas Inlet. After surrendering unconditionally to the Spanish, as many as 200 Frenchmen have their hands bound behind them and are "put to the knife."

11 OCTOBER 1565

The second group of shipwreck survivors, including Jean Ribault, encounter Spanish troops near Matanzas Inlet. Half of them flee back to the south, while the others unconditionally surrender. Of those only a handful were spared and between 70 and 150, including Ribault, were put to death.

1 NOVEMBER 1565

Menéndez marches south towards Canaveral with 250 men to a makeshift fort occupied by the remaining French survivors. Negotiations led to the surrender of some 75 Frenchmen who were promised safety and taken prisoner, though another 20 or so fled, taking their chances with the local Surruque Indians.

WINTER 1970-1971

A group of metal detectorists, led by Douglas Armstrong, discover a series of archaeological sites identified as 1565 French shipwreck survivor camps on land now part of Canaveral National Seashore.

JULY-AUGUST 2014

LAMP archaeologists, funded by the State of Florida and NOAA, and in partnership with the National Park Service, the Institute of Maritime History, and the Center for Historical Archaeology, launch a survey in search of the lost French fleet of Jean Ribault adjacent to the shipwreck survivor camp sites.

All illustrations created by Theodore de Bry, based on original drawings by Jacques Le Moyne. Images courtesy of Service Historique de la Défense, Vincennes, France.





LOCKED IN

"Storm Wreck" Artifact Updates

By Andrew Thomson

HE FIRST ARTIFACT I PICKED UP and started conserving at LAMP has also turned out to be one of the more unusual pieces I have ever worked on.

When artifacts are excavated, they typically go through a multi-stage conservation process to turn a muddled mass of sand, shell and historic material, called a concretion, into a recognizable object.

First, the archaeologists thoroughly document and record the piece *in situ*. They then bring the artifact out of the water to photograph, document and draw it, and then put into storage. After arriving at the lighthouse conservation facilities, the concretion is then taken to be X-rayed to determine the size, shape and density of any remains inside the hardened sediment.

Artifact 13S-321 was easily identified as a rim lock by its X-ray. The image showed an 8" x 4.5" rectangle with a classic keyhole, fastener holes and some of the inner workings such as springs and locking bolts. There was little concretion on the exterior face of the lock and the outer casing was clearly made of brass.

I began cleaning the artifact by using a pneumatic hand-held chisel, called an airscribe, to remove the buildup of sediment and shell. While airscribing the intrusive materials, the face and sides were very easy to clean and was completed quickly. The interior of the lock, however, was a different story. It contained the smaller, separate moving pieces of the lock mechanism. Using the X-ray as a guide, special care was taken to avoid damage to the fragile iron of the various springs, sliding bolts and tumblers.

While removing a portion of concretion, a small pocket of corroded material was exposed. I cleaned out the remaining loose bits and pieces and, by following the pocket, recognized that it was a hollow formed by metal fully corroding away. Because the metal had disappeared, neither the original object nor the hollow show up in the x-ray. While this was unexpected, it can be com-

mon with iron artifacts and is one of many



IN PROCESS

reasons conservation requires careful attention and patience.

Upon fully cleaning out the hollow, it turned out to be a very intriguing part of the lock: the key.

After defining the edges of the key and cleaning out as much of the remaining metal as possible, a classic skeleton key took shape. Resin epoxy mixed with pigment was then poured into the void. This way, a near-perfect cast of the original key (*see photo above*) could be made and significant information could be gained from an empty hole.

After letting the resin cure, more airscribing was undertaken to determine the size, shape and quality of the remaining inner pieces. Some of the springs and locking mechanisms were too small or fully corroded to conserve or cast with epoxy. Pictures and measurements were the only way to get any information from them. The two large sliding bolts used to actually lock the door were still in relatively good condition, with slight loss of metal and corrosion.

When cleaning the edges of the bolts, though, another unusual find popped up in the lock. In the upper left hand corner there was evidence of glass running alongside one of the bolts. After a quick



acid wash, the glass also turned out to have silver mirroring. Unfortunately, the size of the glass cannot be determined until more of the locking mechanisms are cast with epoxy. It is unknown why there would be mirrored glass inside the lock.

Once all the interior mechanisms are either de-concreted or cast with epoxy, the remaining material will go through the second phase of conservation, electrolytic reduction (E.R.). In this process, an electric current is run through the artifact while submerged in an electrolyte solution.

The cannon and carronade from "Storm Wreck" are currently undergoing E.R. to draw the salt out of the metal into the solution. This will help stabilize our artifacts for display in our "Storm Wreck" exhibit which will be opened in 2016.

TOUR SPOTLIGHT



The primary shipwreck covered in the tour is called the "Storm Wreck." It occurred in 1782, when hundreds of ships left Charleston, S.C., to come to St. Augustine, Fla. The British Loyalists were looking for a new start because the American Revolution was coming to an end and the Loyalists were being forced out of the colonies.

On December 31, 1782, the 16 ships that were on their way to Florida were lost, meaning the ships most likely wrecked off the coast close to St. Augustine.

The lighthouse archaeologists have a few ideas as to how these ships might have wrecked. One of the most popular is because of the tides. The ships could have run aground because of a miscalculation of the tides which affects the depth of the water.

During the tour, visitors will be immersed

in the "Storm Wreck" search through videos that really take you into the world of an archaeological dive. It shows how little visibility there is underwater and the amount of tools it takes to find these artifacts, dig them up and get them out of the water.

One of the most important tools used is the magnetometer, which is what Chuck Meide used to find the first artifact for this dig, a 10-foot pipe. Once these artifacts are located underwater, the team must use a machine to remove the sand from around the area to expose the object. After the object is exposed, they use a crane-type machine attached to the boat to pull the artifact from underwater.

After the video, the next stop on the tour is the corral, where the archaeologists keep the artifacts that have not yet been cleaned. The tour guide takes visitors to see these artifacts in conservation.

Many of the artifacts still have barnacles, rust and other coatings on them from being underwater for so many years. The tour guide also explains how all the different metals and materials react underwater, as well as how they treat each of them depending on the metal.

The delicate cleaning process of these arti-

facts can be tricky. Many of these artifacts are so old and delicate they can easily fall apart during the cleaning process.

NOW SEVEN DAYS A WEEK!

The third stop on the *Lost Ships* tour is the old U.S. Coast Guard barracks, which is currently the home of the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program (LAMP) offices. While there, visitors can meet other archeologists of LAMP and see more artifacts that have been cleaned.

The final stop on the tour is the laboratory, where testing, cleaning and analyzing is done on the artifacts. While there, you can see artifacts in process like pieces of cloth, buttons from coats, belt buckles and much more.

The *Lost Ships* tour is extremely enlightening and gives people a new perspective of what life was like for the British Loyalists during this time in history.

This tour is now open seven days a week, so go online to www.StAugustineLighthouse.org to reserve your spot!

Want to take a FREE Lost Ships tour? You can, if you're a member of the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum. Members-only tours are available once a quarter, call (904) 829-0745 for dates and times.

lighthouse BOAT WORKS

By Dr. Sam Turner

UR HERITAGE BOATWORKS WAS launched at the lighthouse in 2007. This all-volunteer group has been making traditional wooden watercraft ever since. A total of nine boats have been built at the boatworks to date, and there are three building projects ongoing right now, which, upon completion, will bring the total number of craft built in the boatworks to an even dozen.

One of the ways the boatworks has sustained itself financially over the years is through an annual boat drawing. This year's drawing boat is a sailing Catspaw Dinghy. The drawing will be held on March 7, 2015, during our annual Lighthouse Night Fest.

Readers interested in supporting heritage wooden boat building at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum can help by obtaining tickets for the drawing. Tickets are available in the museum gift shop.

Another ongoing project is the Yawl Boat. This boat is being built from a line drawing that was made in the year 1760 and located in the British archives by Howard Chapelle in the mid-twentieth century. Our copy of these lines was obtained from the Smithsonian Institution.

This craft is being made as one of the museum's collaborative contributions to the *Galveztown* Replica Project.







Left: The new tents in the lighthouse boatworks provide extra shade and protection for our volunteer craftsmen. Top: Volunteer Gary measures the bend of the Yawl Boat's ribs. Above: Volunteers Len (left) and Gerry (right) cut new planks for a boatworks project.

The *Galveztown* was a British warship captured and reused by the Spanish against the British in the Gulf of Mexico during the American Revolutionary War. The Yawl Boat will be used as the Galveztown replica's ship's boat and will be handed over to the *Galveztown* when she arrives in St. Augustine.

The Yawl Boat project has been a considerable challenge. We build with local woods and have found that cypress planking does not take as much of a bend when steamed as does white oak, the wood that was used to plank these craft in Great Britain.

However, cypress is what an English boatwright building in St. Augustine during the British Period would have used. The planking of this boat is also complicated by the considerable bending and twisting of planks necessary during installation in both the bow and stern of the vessel.

Though difficult, the skills and knowledge being developed over the course of this particular project will make our lighthouse boatworks one of the very few boatworks in the country that can successfully undertake the construction of such complicated 18th century small craft.

The third project currently underway at the boatworks is the construction of a replica Florida Skipjack. This particular boat was originally built on the St. Johns River near Jacksonville sometime between 1875 and 1880 by a Captain Watros.

Built originally as a sailing and fishing craft, she was eventually stripped of her sailing rig and converted to power by the time she was documented in 1936 during a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project called the Historic American Merchant Marine Survey. What eventually became of the original craft is unknown.

Like the Yawl Boat, the Skipjack is being build almost entirely of local cypress wood that was milled especially for this project at a sawmill in East Palatka, Florida.

This project is being funded by The Community Foundation in Jacksonville's Crisp Ellert grant.

The look of the boatworks has also undergone a remarkable transformation by replacing the short-term tents that have shaded the boatworks since 2007 with tents of considerably more durable material that should stand up much better in the Florida sun. This has increased the shaded space considerably and will go a long way to making it more comfortable for the boat builders this coming summer.

Perhaps most importantly of all is the debt of gratitude owed our volunteer boat builders. Without these unique individuals this program would not be possible.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to Dr. Jim Gaskins, Richard Sexauer, Gerry Paradiso, Roland Stonaker, Gary Frazer, John Lubbehusen, Ralph Koebke, Lennox Stuart and Steve McMullen.

These historic craft being built at the heritage boatworks will be completed and in the water next year to showcase high quality and authentic historic replica watercraft during the 450th commemoration of the founding of St. Augustine.



FIELD SCHOOL

By Olivia McDaniel



My favorite part was suiting up in our dive gear and plunging into 1782.

- 9im Kinsella, U. of Central Florida

HIS PAST SUMMER, THE ST. AUGUStine Lighthouse & Museum saw the completion of yet another successful field school as part of the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program (LAMP).

On June 2, 11 new students from across the country arrived at the museum to begin four weeks of training in the many facets of maritime and underwater archaeology.

This year, our students came to us from coast to coast. Bridget Stanton and Chandler Von Cannon came to us from Flagler College right here in St. Augustine. Hanna Lucke, a recent graduate of the University of Puget Sound, made her way across the country from the Pacific Northwest to take part.

The rest of our students came from all around the East Coast, Intermountain, Midwestern and Southeastern U.S. They included: Allyson Ropp (University of North Carolina, Ashville); Christopher McCarron (University of Alabama, Birmingham); Eden Andes (Florida State University); Jim Kinsella (University of Central Florida); Leeah Worley (Lycoming College); Maddie Roth (St. Mary's College of Maryland); Molly Trivelpiece (Longwood University); and Michael Reese (University of Colorado, Boulder). Not only did our students come from a wide variety of places, they also came with a wide range of experience. Some had already chosen this field as a career and were preparing to start graduate school this fall, while some were trying their hand at maritime archaeology for the first time.

After a week of training, including underwater archaeology methods in the clear waters of Alexander Springs, and black out visibility training in the pool, our students were ready to continue the excavation of the Storm Wreck, the 1782 Loyalist wreck just off the coast of St. Augustine.

Kinsella, a UCF graduate who is starting a master's degree in Maritime History at East Carolina University this fall, said of the field school program, "I enjoyed all aspects of the course, [but] my favorite part was suiting up in our dive gear and plunging into 1782. It was a surreal experience uncovering artifacts that have not been seen since our country's infancy."

This year, Kinsella and our students helped excavate six new units on site, and we revisited two units partially excavated in the past. Thirty-two new concretions were brought to the surface, although we do not know what artifacts are hidden beneath their mineral crust as of yet.



Left page: Field school students, supervisors and LAMP team pose with R/V Roper. Top left: Students are tested on the underwater obstacle course. Above: Student Alyson Ropp prepares for a dive and a concretion recovered from "Storm Wreck" is pictured.

Divers also began testing the boundaries of the "Storm Wreck" site with a handheld metal detector, trying to establish how far the site actually extends.

"The pure joy of finding a 300-year-old artifact from a colonial shipwreck is almost indescribable," said McCarron. "We were the first people since the original owners to handle these everyday tools and it was our responsibility to take the utmost care of what remained of their ill-fated journey."

The visibility on the "Storm Wreck" has always been low, but this year our students truly put their black out visibility training to the test when they experienced true blackout conditions while mapping Wilton's Groin, an historic coquina groin in Salt Run.

They also experienced public archaeology firsthand, as they spoke to visitors at the lighthouse about the history and archaeology of the "Storm Wreck."

While at the lighthouse, students also learned about beginning conservation practices we use here at the museum as they learned to use an air scribe – an air powered chisel used to clean the mineral crust that surrounds most of our artifacts.

All 11 students successfully completed all aspects of training required for our four-week field school, and left St. Augustine as LAMP scientific divers, ready to further pursue their interests in both maritime history and archaeology.





Above, clockwise: Students map Wilton's Groin in Salt Run; Bridget Stanton records information underwater; Students practice underwater excavations at Alexander Springs. Below, left: Field School Supervisor Dave Conlin prepares for a dive. Below, right: Dr. Sam Turner and Chris McCarron raise artifacts from "Storm Wreck" site.



ANNUAL REPORT











The story of Northeast Florida is rich in military and tradition dating from 1565 and continuing through the present day. Through the museum's archaeological program, that history is constantly being discovered. Through the museum, history is being preserved and told.

- Jerome Fletcher Honorary Chairman First Light Maritime Society Campaign

A BANNER YEAR

T'S HARD TO PUT INTO WORDS HOW MUCH THIS last year has meant to our organization, staff, trustees and members. We could not have asked for a more perfect time to celebrate the 190th anniversary of Florida's First Lighthouse. the 140th anniversary of our current tower and lens. and the 80th anniversary of the lighthouse's biggest champions, the Junior Service League of St. Augustine, Inc.

The celebration rang in the start of a new chapter for our growing museum. From new exhibits and summer camp milestones to achieving longheld research and program goals, our museum team of staff, trustees, members, volunteers and donors truly raised the bar this year.

MORE SCHOLARSHIPS THAN EVER BEFORE

Our summer camp program offered more scholarships than ever before (89) thanks to fundraising efforts from the Sertoma Club's Steve Senecal Scholarship Fund. These scholarships gave many disadvantaged St. Johns County students an opportunity to have a fun, exciting, one-of-a-kind summer learning experience.

RECORD NUMBERS FOR NEW MEMBERSHIPS

With the addition of two new legacy coordinators, this year saw rapid growth in memberships and brick sales. We now have over 1,000 museum members in 866 households around the country. Funds raised by member contributions will help continue the historic preservation and educational programming of our museum.

SECURING THE FUTURE

Perhaps one of the most momentous accomplishments for the year occurred when Executive Director Kathy A. Fleming and Board Chairman Theresa Floyd (pictured below) signed the documents to officially purchase the light station property from St. Johns County.

This transition will ensure the longevity of the lighthouse legacy. It will also allow for more opportunities to receive grants and other financial benefits that help our museum continue its mission to discover, preserve, present and keep alive the stories of our Nation's Oldest PortSM as symbolized by the working St. Augustine Lighthouse.

We are thankful to everyone on our team for all their hard work and support this year, and to the community for continuing to stand behind us.



ASSETS

OTHER ASSETS \$11,796 1%

NET FIXED ASSETS \$1,458,842 58%

LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE

FUND BALANCE \$1,713,124 68%

CURRENT ASSETS \$1,039,307 41%

LONGTERM LIABILITES \$634,277 25%

CURRENT LIABILITES \$162,544 7%

> TOTAL ASSETS \$2,509,945

TOTAL LIABILITES \$796,821

FUND BALANCE \$1,713,124

TOTAL BALANCE SHEET

CAMPAIGN SUCCESS!

CHIEVING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES sometimes requires extensive resources, especially if one of your objectives is to maintain a 165 foot seaside building that is 140 years old.

Five years ago we launched a campaign to preserve the Junior Service League Restoration of our light station, help redo all our interior exhibitions to deepen the visitor experience and to build a a bit more space for our scientific archaeological laboratories and educational programs for children.

Today we are glad to announce that with your help, we are now over 50% of the way toward that goal!

Under the honorary leadership of Jerome Fletcher our donations reached new heights. Thank you to leadership gifts from individual donors the Lastinger and Lazzara families.

And thank you to the many who donated from our volunteers' corps our Board of Trustees, our staff and our museum memberships. With your leverage, we reached out to the State of Florida Division of Historical Resources and Division of Cultural Affairs and to the State Legislature for two separate appropriations.

The result has taken our capital campaign this year to \$1.5 million dollars. We have begun timely restoration work on our 1874 hand blown glass Fresnel lens, we area about to repaint our lighthouse tower, we have begun installation of new exhibitions in the Keeper's House and we are planning another exhibit next year.

We have been able to hire two new conservators to help prepare artifacts from the 1782 "Storm Wreck" which sank fleeing to British East Florida from Charleston S.C., at the close of the American Revolution.

Additional grant funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Ocean Exploration Research (NOAA-OER) provided \$49,000 to search for Jean Ribault's lost French Fleet. An online research page and a children's



Irene Lazarra (left) demonstrates the interactive features of the new At Home with the Harns exhibit for her mother, Judith Johnsen (right). The Lazarra Family Foundation donated funding for the exhibit and dedicated it to Johnsen, a lover of all things Victorian.

| NOAA Ocean Exploration Grant State Small Matching Grant | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Lens Room Restoration Grant | | | | | |
| | | | Program Support G | Program Support Grant | |
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| Co Comercia | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| \$49,000 | \$49,631 | \$50,000 | \$150,000 | \$150 <i>,</i> | |
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book were also part of this federal agency partnership.

These funds have also allowed us to make our most exciting purchase this year, our historic light station, and will allow us to enhance our ability to discover, preserve, present and keep alive the diverse maritime history and heritage of our Nation's Oldest Port[™] though the construction of a Maritime Heritage Center.

The center will contain a research laboratory, public education and display spaces. It will create an area that will be a legacy project of St. Augustine's 450th birthday and serve our community for years to come.

If you would like to help us reach our ultimate campaign goal, there are a number of ways to get involved!

You can call (904) 829-0745 or visit www.StAugustineLighthouse.org to make a direct contribution to our capital campaign.

You can also visit us on indiegogo, a crowdfunding website for nonprofits. We have a new campaign there to conserve artifacts and we need your support!

000



GRANTS & APPROPRIATIONS \$948,631 2014-2016 FISCAL YEARS

FUN FOR ALL, AND ALL



CAMP BY THE NUMBERS

B SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED A new record for summer camp!

G CAMPERS IN ATTENDANCE Over six sessions of camp

N A HOT JUNE MORNING, 48 excited summer campers from the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum escaped the heat and climbed aboard the *Schooner Freedom* to set sail into the Ancient City's maritime history.

These students were part of a special summer full of firsts for lighthouse summer camps. Ground-breaking partnerships, new curriculum, exciting field trips and record attendance highlighted our six weeks of educational programming.

During this time a total of 96 campers, ages six through fourteen, had a blast learning about the history, culture, and people of our region.

We partnered with the St. Johns County Education Foundation to hold four weeks of Lighthouse Ancient City Explorers Camps for a total of 86 kindergarten through 5th grade students.

Highlights included all four weeks of camp led by state-certified teachers, our highest-ever camp attendance, a cruise on the *Schooner Freedom*, a Civil Rights train tour of St. Augustine, visits to Fort Mose and Flagler College, programs with the Florida Public Archaeology Network and the Menorcan Cultural Society, as well as science experiments, games and so much more!



Thanks to a grant from the Barbara A. Kay Foundation, ten middle school students participated in our first-ever woodenship model building camp this year! Under the expert guidance of lighthouse ship modeler Sue Callaham, campers constructed their very own model Chesapeake Bay Crabbing Skiff and experienced wooden boat-building, maritime archaeology and cast-net fishing.

Our first such camp, these sessions proved a great opportunity for middle school students to learn about our maritime heritage while completing a hands-on project to be proud of!

A record-high number of scholarships were distributed to local at-risk and underserved youth, and ultimately half of our campers attended thanks to these scholarships!

Our staff is thrilled to be able to better the lives of at-risk and underserved children and help mitigate the physical risks and learning loss these youths face during the summer.

All of this would not have been possible without the support of our generous community donors and partners.

From all of our campers and camp staff, we are sincerely grateful!

FOR FUN!



The smiles on camper faces and glowing parent evaluations tell the story of another successful and busy summer at the Lighthouse full of adventures, education, friends and fun.

Such experiences won't be limited to the summer anymore with our brand-new winter and spring break camps. These programs will keep students learning and playing during school vacations throughout the year.

New curriculum will immerse campers in Victorian-era lightkeepers' life and our region's maritime heritage while teaching relevant science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) concepts.

Lighthouse camps continue to further our organizational mission, better the lives of local youth, and engage the next generation with the history and culture around them.

We extend our sincere thanks to the many generous supporters and volunteers who make these programs possible, and are excited about what the future holds for education here at the lighthouse!



SERTOMA CLUB RAISED MORE THAN \$4,000 FOR

THE STEVE SENECAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND THIS YEAR.







Dear summer camp people: Thank you for the summer camp! It was scientifically fun! I am a master

of science!

-Brieann Neuman

PARENT REVIEWS

"The activities were the best I've seen anywhere!"

"My child was enthusiastic to share what he had learned."

"I felt my kids learned something. It was what you hope a camp will be. Most fall short. This one was great. Good work!"

"We absolutely loved this camp! It is by far our kids' favorite summer camp ever! The only serious problem with the camp is the fact that it doesn't run all summer! We would attend all summer if it were offered."

"If your camp ran the entire summer or at least most of the summer, my kid would come every year!" by Rick Cain

New grant funding this year will allow our operations team to continue our preservation work on the 1874 brick tower, iron works and Fresnel lens. S I MOVE AROUND THE LIGHTHOUSE grounds these days I enjoy watching our guests, most of whom are visiting for the first time, head straight for the tower to conquer the climb and enjoy the sea breeze and view.

Fortunately, many get sidetracked along the way by our exhibits and information. They begin to slowly appreciate that there is more here than just a tower to climb. Hopefully, they leave with a better understanding of how lighthouses work, what it was like for the keepers and their families and a hunger to know more.

For those of us who have been here working behind the scenes (thirteen years for me now) the experience is a bit different.

In operations, we do our best each day to make sure that the physical environment our guests interact with, and employees and volunteers work in, are well maintained and safe.

This can be challenging with 200,000 pairs of feet and hands contacting all of the horizontal surfaces and many of the vertical ones on the property every year.

Add to that a very corrosive atmosphere and the challenges more than double. Wood rot invades our Keepers' House porches, stairs and rails with a vengeance. It is not uncommon for us to be replacing parts several times per year and painting more often than that where grasping hands and tramping feet have worn away the surface coating, and yes, even with treated lumber.

Corrosion attacks historic iron and other metals while molds and mildew grow everywhere in the shadows, including historic masonry fourteen stories off of the ground.

All of these issues must be addressed while attending to the daily chores of keeping up with the trash, lawn care, and general cleaning in all the buildings, oh, and don't forget the nature trails!

The reality of life at a light station is one of "on-going preservation."

We are now approximately 25 years past the initial restoration of our Light Station when the Junior Service League and the entire city celebrated a job well done.

Unfortunately, the paradox of historic preservation is that when you open your pristine restoration to the visiting public, their traffic begins to destroy the restoration. At that point, it becomes a battle to stay ahead of the destruction from both people and nature. Luckily, we have been able to do this and, as our visitors can attest to, maintain a pristine facility.

This year we have been fortunate in gathering funds in the form of State of Florida appropriations and grants to do some major work on our tower and lens (you may have noticed that we just completed work on the Keepers' House this past summer as our talented educators were installing the new *At Home with the Harns* exhibit, and you really should visit if you've not yet seen it).

The restoration of our first order Fresnel lens 25 years ago was the first of its kind in the country. Joe Cocking and Nick Johnston, experts in lens care and both career, Aids to Navigation U.S. Coast Guard personnel, performed the work.

After retirement (Cocking had his retirement party here in the Anastasia Gallery a few years ago), Cocking and Johnston started a partnership, traveling to repair damaged lenses in lighthouses throughout the country.

Our own Director of Museum Conservation, Kathleen McCormick, has traveled with them on several occasions to assist in those repairs.

Cocking will be performing the necessary work inside the lens room to replace degenerated putty that holds the threehundred and seventy individual prisms that make up the lens.

McCormick will be assisting with this work as well as performing repairs to the historic deck prisms that allow light into the stairwell below the lens room.

You can see these prisms if you simply look up while climbing the last stairs between the watch room and the outside door at the top of the lighthouse. Painting will also be done inside the lens room as well as possible replacement of the 1960's era gearbox and motor which drive the lens' dioptric prisms and flash panels.

Outside, noted lighthouse iron expert, Alex Klahm, will be performing much needed work on corrosion and rust blooms on the rails, widow's walk and under the eaves of the lighthouse roof, as well as under the Main Gallery (the name in lighthouse terminology for the primary observation deck of the lighthouse tower).

It is under the gallery with its wide horizontal surface that salt-rich condensation loves to cling in the shade and eat away at the coatings protecting the historic fabric. Ideally this work is done, and has been here at the lighthouse, every five to six years. We also have the structure inspected by our structural engineer once per year.

Immediately after the iron is repaired and cleaned, it must be primed and painted while the weather is warm, work traditionally done by the keepers while hanging over the side of the tower on a bosun's chair using a three inch metal scraper. You can still see some of these tools in the Keepers' Office in the Oil House.

Included in this work will also be the cleaning and painting of the masonry with its famous black and white stripes.

Hopefully, when the work is done in late spring of 2015, we will be good for another five years or so, and then the process will start all over again.

If you suspect that this work is not without some major expenses, I can confirm those suspicions. If it were not for the support of our members, private donors, visitors, and state funding, it would not be possible.

The U.S. Coast Guard still maintains navigational lights along every coast in America to keep mariners safe.

Here in St. Augustine, our lighthouse still serves each night as the navigational aid for our Nation's Oldest PortSM, and we in the Operations Department intend to keep it that way for many years to come.









Top, left: Deputy Director Rick Cain stands inside the lens room. Above, left: Alex Klahm inspects the tower's iron works, seen up close in the picture at left. Above: Workers paint the tower.

shifting

New Faces & Places on Board of Trustees

by Denise DuFresne

HE ST. AUGUSTINE LIGHTHOUSE & Museum's Board of Trustees has seen some changes this year.

At the board's annual meeting in June, we said goodbye to CAPT. Greg Streeter (USN, Ret.), wishing him good luck in his retirement. He will remain part of our organization as a Trustee Emeritus along with Joe Finnegan, Ray Hamel, and Maj. General Gerald Stack Maloney (USAF, Ret.).

We also welcome two new board members for this year and look forward to their input as our museum continues to grow.

Claudia Kenny joins us as our Junior Service League delegate. She brings with her a very extensive law background and a deep commitment to community service.

Kenny has volunteered both with us at the lighthouse and the Junior Service League's Kid's Bridge project, a family visitation center that also provides counseling services to the community.

Kenny serves on the Timberlin Creek **Elementary School Advisory Council** and donates her time to the school as a volunteer.She has also worked with the Jacksonville Area Legal Aid Society, providing pro bono legal services to families in need throughout St. Johns County.

Bruce Beaman is the President of Gray-Court Holdings, an industry service company that focuses primarily on commercial retail and restaurant real estate.

Beaman is also a dedicated and active member of the Tower Club, the lighthouse's own young professionals group.

The Tower Club is a strong supporter of the lighthouse's summer camp program, and their fundraising efforts provide camp scholarships to local children who would otherwise miss out on opportunities to participate in a camp experience.

With his experience in the areas of strategic planning, marketing and financial consulting combined with a keen interest in lighthouses, Beaman brings dynamic new energy to the Board of Trustees.

Taking over the position of secretary, beginning with the 2014-15 fiscal year, is Judy Burnett Albright, who joins the Executive Committee after years of dedicated service on the Board of Trustees.

Albright has been a member of the lighthouse family for over a decade: she was part of the Junior Service League's lighthouse restoration efforts during the early 1980s and early 1990s.

As our museum sets its course for the upcoming year, we are pleased and proud to welcome our new board members!







TIDES





Growing Family: New Faces on Staff

by Shannon O'Neil

HIS YEAR, OUR MUSEUM WAS fortunate enough to receive a burst of new talent to our dedicated staff. Part of the grant funds awarded by the State of Florida allowed for the hiring of a new full-time archaeologist, slated to stay with us for at least the next year.

To fill this position, we went to our extensive talent pool of former field school students and found Olivia McDaniel, a native of Council, Idaho. McDaniel first visited the lighthouse in the summer of 2012 for field school with the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program (LAMP).

After graduating from the University of Idaho in 2013, McDaniel returned to St. Augustine to serve as a field school supervisor in 2013 and 2014. After completing another successful dive season, McDaniel was invited to stay on as a full-time archaeologist assisting with research, reporting and public archaeology programs.

Grant funds also allowed us to expand our conservation team this year. In order to prepare the more than 1,000 artifacts recovered from the "Storm Wreck" for a 2016 exhibit, the museum hired part-time conservator Maggie Burkett and full-time conservator Andrew Thomson.

Burkett is a native of Granville, Ohio, and a 2014 graduate of Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. She attended field school in 2011 and returned as a supervisor in 2012. Maggie is excited to return to St. Augustine and help conserve the artifacts she helped bring up from the ocean floor. Thomson comes to the lighthouse all the way from Flathead Lake, Montana. He is a graduate of Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, and Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.

At A&M, Thomson studied at the university's Conservation Research Laboratory where fellow lighthouse conservator Starr Cox also received her training.

Burkett and Thomson are assisting Cox with the extensive preservation work needed to care for the shipwreck artifacts recovered by lighthouse archaeologists. They are also providing guests with a front row seat to the process by performing public archaeology seven days a week on site.

The museum's development department also expanded this year with the addition of new Development Coordinator Matthew McKay. A native of Green Cove Springs, Florida, McKay started working at the lighthouse as a Legacy Coordinator in the spring.

Following his summer graduation from the University of Florida, McKay received a promotion to the full-time Development Coordinator position where he will assist Development Director Michelle Adams with memberships, legacy bricks and donations.

With these new additions, our team is looking forward to reaching our goals, setting new aspirations and working harder than ever to fulfil the mission of our maritime museum.

STRENGTH

Our museum family grew tremendously in the last year with new memberships, donations and bricks.

EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

HIS YEAR, WE WERE ALSO fortunate enough to have the support of local businesses and individuals who sponsored museum events.

With the contributions of these generous donors, we were able to host our two annual events, Luminary Night and Night Fest, free to the public.

We were also able to bring in a nationally renowned speaker, National Park Service Chief Historian Emeritus Ed Bearss, to celebrate the grand opening of our new exhibit.

Thank you to all who helped sponsor these great events. If you or your business would like to sponsor a future lighthouse event, please contact our Development Team at (904) 829-0745.

LUMINARY NIGHT

Herbie Wiles Insurance

NIGHT FEST

THE BAILEY GROUP



AN EVENING WITH THE HARNS

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With coffee, tea, or hot cocoa, these mugs will fill you with warm memories of The St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum. Choose from an assortment of different shapes, sizes and colors. Prices range from **\$6.95 - \$15.95 + S&H**

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Let the light shine! This vibrantly colored suncatcher is distinctively unique as each piece of glass varies in color. *Measures 17.5" x 7.5"* **\$26.95 + S&H**

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Enjoy cooking in this Lodge cast iron pan with recipes from *A Skillet Full* cookbook. Add a little spice with hand painted salt and pepper shakers made by local artist Cathy Lord. Items pictured include an 8" cast iron skillet (**\$19.95+ S&H**), *A Skillet Full* cookbook (**\$14.95 + S&H**), hand-painted salt and pepper shakers (**\$25.95 + S&H**).

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Surprise someone special with a commemorative brick from the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum this holiday season.

Celebrate a special occassion, remember a loved one, or honor a veteran with a brick that will remain a part of the St. Augustine Light Station for years to come!

Choose your location near the visitors' center or lighthouse courtyard and enscribe a lasting message on a commemorative brick, paver or tile.

To purchase your brick, paver or tile:

Contact our Legacy Team at (904) 829-0745 or go online to: www.staugustinelighthouse.org/bricks





You can be part of our Christmas celebration!

Whether you live near or far, you can participate in our 3rd Annual Nautical Tree!

Just donate a nautical-themed ornament of your choosing and we will feature it on a special tree inside the Keepers' House.

Please mail your nautical ornaments to:

St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum 81 Lighthouse Avenue St. Augustine, Florida 32086

Be sure to include your name and hometown so we can recognize you on our special donor board!

Luminary Night DEC. 3RD 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Bring the family for a magical night at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum. Enjoy refreshments, kids' holiday crafts, live music, photos with Santa and a breathtaking view of St. Augustine's Nights of Lights. goin us for this free event to kick off the holiday season!



SPONSORED BY HERBIE WILES

DESCO

COLLECTION

ITH THE SMELL OF FRESH paint in the air, a throaty Caterpillar D-343 engine started up. Her new owner, 'E. L. 'Bluff' Peterson, stood on the dock as she eased out into the stream, pirouetted and steamed past the docks.

Beside Mr. Peterson, a photographer steadily clicked away. Recording this moment wasn't only important for the owner of a new shrimp boat, it was important because this was the 1,000th boat built by Diesel Engine Sales Co. (DESCO) in St. Augustine. Not many wooden boatbuilders in history can claim to have built 1,000 boats but Diesel Sales now could.

These photographs, and many more like them, would be saved for posterity. St. Augustine was making history, a history we are proud to have a big part of here at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum.

This summer and fall, a team of volun-

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By Brendan Burke

teers has scanned, organized, re-sleeved, and labeled well over 2,500 photographs from the DESCO collection. The collection includes over 6,000 photographs, spans five decades of boatbuilding in St. Augustine, and captures almost every boat they built as well as many of the thousands of people involved.

Starting in 1943, Diesel Engine Sales Co. was launched by Claude Mein and L. C. Bergman. By 1947 the company had launched 100 shrimp trawlers, and was under the new ownership of L. C. Ringhaver, a name now synonymous with heavy equipment in Northeast Florida.

As the decades rolled by and thousands more trawlers flooded from the San Sebastian River photographers were there to capture the moment.

Our job now is to preserve the collection. By removing the pictures from their original sleeves, we prevent damaging acids from building up in the old folders. Each photo is scanned into our digital library in high resolution, labeled to get entered into our collections management software and re-shelved for final transport to our collections facility.

KILONAIII

This process not only protects photographs from immediate degradation, but also from catastrophic loss, since there is an electronic backup of each original document once it has been scanned into our electronic library.

Dealing with a large photographic collection is no small task and we want to thank the volunteers who have helped make this possible.

Special thanks to: Barbara Lawyer, Maureen and John Ballard, Eric Crosby and Zach Alger. Most especially, thanks to Ed Long and Randy Ringhaver for recognizing the value of this collection and helping us preserve St. Augustine's maritime legacy.