

May 23, 2020

9:00 to 12:00

Model Shipwrights of Western NY

Video Meeting Minutes

(MSWNY)

Meeting Attendees and Access:

Once again we were fortunate to be able to utilize Mke K.s GoToMeeting application to meet virtually. We were pleased to have 5 attendees outside of the normal group join in. Tim H. from Florida, Joshua from Philadelphia, Ron M. from western NY and two members of the Niagara Ship Modelers, Alan and Ray.

It appears we will be utilizing this capability for the near term due to NYS pandemic guidelines/restrictions so it can only get better with usage and familiarity.

Group Funds Status:

Joe reported that the donations of table top modeler's tools and the model from a retired non-member is nearly complete. I was called back to the donor recently to pick up a number of attachments to the Taig lathe and the buyer, a jeweler in Jamestown NY, was cooperative in adding funds to the lot. It finally sold for \$260. With that the funds accumulated allow us to forego dues this year which mostly will be applied to our web page cost. The balance is held in reserve for our PBR project materials and other eventualities.

Main Meeting Agenda:

- Civil War Mortar Schooner Research: Bill E.
Bill as you are aware completed CP Williams. Bill reflected on the research documentation scarcity given the fact that these schooners, 40

in number, were purchased and retro fitted to support the mortar armament. He further related that these vessels were utilized in fort sieges and found to be somewhat ineffective for various reasons. Bill has found that adding deck figures to his models brings the models alive and of more interest. We all have to agree. He has been able to purchase his deck figures from Shape Ways and exclaims that the 3D generated figures are quite detailed. I might add that his figure painting is quite amazing in itself.



- Deck Completion; Cheerful: Joe
Due to time Joe did not cover this subject. He will provide updates in the very next session we hold. Hopefully in the next 6 to 8 weeks.

- The Works of Sam C: Sam C
Sam was not able to provide his subject matter as he reports that he is in school, college that is taking a virtual course on the US Constitution (document not the ship). Sam hopefully can reflect on what he has learned once the course is over. Albeit not about ship modeling and research it is something we here in the US need to be reminded of especially in our current presidential era.

- A Photo Tour of Royal Greenwich Museum(s): Tim
What is there to say about Tim's photo and descriptive presentation to the museum but IMPRESSIVE! Amazingly he covered a wide range of models, too numerous to mention here other than to say the pictorial tour was exquisite covering from the Royal Barge of Fredrick to Mary Rose. What was equally remarkable was his recall on detail and supportive information. He related that in the one section of the museum there were "minders" whose job was to move people along to keep the flow of traffic. He remarked that he was not able to dwell at any one model but briefly. Too bad that these works of art are not treated as the great works they are to be admired much like a masterpiece painting.

Tim and I will be discussing how we reference this presentation and the Cutty Sark one as well on our web site. Although we have a museum

section I suspect the content of his work does not lend itself well to just a pictorial logging. I have been musing about a CLOUD like venue which might support his efforts well. Standby as we have opportunity to discuss this.

- Donald McKay Ship Builder: Don M.

Don did a masterful and rather in depth recounting of the life of his famous ancestor. As Don related he was born in Nova Scotia in 1810 and at a very early age of 16 moved to Boston to work for several ship builders and even did some freelance work of his own during a period of roughly 15 years. During the period he built mainly packet boats. Also within this period he began his principal role as ship yard partnership/owner. In 1845 his notable career began in earnest when he opened his own ship yard and began building even larger packets and ultimately his storied clippers.

Until 1869 when he finally retired he built an incredible number of clippers, medium and extreme clippers and also several warships including the Essex. He also rebuilt the schooner racing yacht America. A number of his vessels held speed records that withstood challenges for some time in the early days of steam power.

I cannot do adequate service to this great ship builder as Don has done in this short reporting. I would urge Don to formalize his research and possibly publish or add to the Wikipedia work to date. He should be proud of this heritage and relationship to this incredible man.