Mission Statement
The mission of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum is to inspire an understanding of and appreciation for the rich maritime heritage of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal reaches, together with the artifacts, cultures and connections between this place and its people.

Vision Statement
The vision of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum is to be the premier maritime museum for studying, exhibiting, preserving and celebrating the important history and culture of the largest estuary in the United States, the Chesapeake Bay.

Sign up for our e-Newsletter and stay up-to-date on all of the news and events at the Museum. Email havefun@cbmm.org to be added to our mailing list.

NEW! ADDED MEMBER BENEFITS
Show your CBMM membership card and receive:
- FREE admission to the Dorchester County Historical Society in Cambridge, MD. Explore the history and traditions of Dorchester County and the Chesapeake Bay region. The “Heritage Museums and Gardens of Dorchester” feature historic buildings, new exhibits, an expanded Museum Store, and an enriching program of events. Located at 1003 Greenway Drive, Cambridge, MD. For more info, visit dorchesterhistory.org.
- REDUCED admission ($15) to the Philadelphia Antiques Show during Museum Member Monday on April 15, 2013. Early admission at 10am includes a guided show tour, panel discussions, and the opportunity to lunch in the Museum Member dining room for an additional $20. Experience the finest examples of 17th through 20th century decorative arts, needlework, jewelry, furniture, and important artwork. Advanced reservations encouraged by calling Ann Calvert at 410-246-3046. Located at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA. For more info, visit thephiladelphiaantiquesshow.org.

SAVE THE DATE
for the 16th Annual Boating Party Gala on Saturday, September 14, 2013

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what does your Donation buy?
- CBMM’s annual Boating Party Gala and Opening Day of the CBMM Museum and Yacht Yard/Gardens of Dorchester on September 14, 2013.
- CBMM’s annual OysterFest on September 8, 2013.
- CBMM’s annual Waterfowling Festival on July 20, 2013.

On the cover:
“Admiral Cockburn burning & plundering Havre de Grace on the 1st of June 1813, done from a sketch taken on the spot at the time.” Attributed to William Charles, circa 1813. Hampton Print Collection. Reprinted with permission from the Maryland Historical Society.

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Chairman’s Message

by CG Appleby, Chairman of the Board

As we prepare for another busy season here at the Museum, I can’t help but look back with pride at all we’ve accomplished together over the past year—

a sold-out Boating Party, new exhibits, robust educational programs, packed festivals, engaged audiences, and a record-breaking Charity Boat Auction, to name a few.

Your enthusiasm for and support of our work, coupled with the strong leadership of Langley Shook and a talented staff of professionals, means the Museum is charting a course toward a bright and meaningful future.

Your support of the Museum, through generous donations to the Annual Fund, your membership, your involvement—it all contributes to the success of this place and its mission to preserve the heritage of the Chesapeake Bay and its people.

Almost a year has passed since the opening of Push and Pull: Life on Chesapeake Bay Tugboats, and I still find myself drawn to the exhibit, fascinated by all of the Bay’s stories. These are real people with authentic stories, and you help to make sure their dedication to supporting the Museum’s work is a true indicator of how worthy a cause the Museum offers. We can’t imagine a world where the Chesapeake’s heritage and legacies aren’t shared and celebrated, much less forgotten. Their dedication to supporting the Museum’s work is a true indicator of how worthy a cause the Museum offers. We can’t imagine a world where the Chesapeake’s heritage and legacies aren’t shared and celebrated, much less forgotten.

This past September’s Boating Party fundraising gala was a shining example of the dedication that keeps this place running. More than 550 loyal Museum supporters, along with a dedicated corps of volunteers who host the annual fund-raiser, braved torrential downpours and high winds, coming together undeterred by the bad weather to support a cause close to the heart.

This year, as Nancy and I thought about our Annual Fund gifts to the Museum, those rain-soaked Boating Party attendees and volunteers came back to mind. Their dedication to supporting the Museum’s work is a true indicator of how worthy a cause the Museum offers. We can’t imagine a world where the Chesapeake’s heritage and legacies aren’t shared and celebrated, much less forgotten. Their dedication to supporting the Museum’s work is a true indicator of how worthy a cause the Museum offers. We can’t imagine a world where the Chesapeake’s heritage and legacies aren’t shared and celebrated, much less forgotten.

Many thanks, from our Museum staff. You also can find it at cbmm.org/give.htm. It’s just a small share of its budget funded by paid admissions and membership dues, charitable gifts nonetheless provide the lion’s share of the Museum’s revenue support. If you have not already done so, please consider donating to this year’s Annual Fund that closes on April 30, or making a second gift. Take a look at what your donation buys, on page 27, and rest easy in the knowledge that we put every penny to good use. Independent non-profit rating organizations like Charity Navigator and GuideStar have commended our thriftiness. I invite you to check out their reviews at charitynavigator.org and guidestar.org.

We have a lot to look forward to this coming season, including the new exhibit Navigating Freedom: The War of 1812 on the Chesapeake, opening on May 11 in time to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the skirmish in St. Michaels. This exhibit explores the impact of the War of 1812 on the people of the Chesapeake—black and white Americans, militiamen, Baltimore merchants, St. Michaels shipbuilders, and British sailors who found opportunity or misfortune amid the conflict. (Read more on page 14)

Thank you to those who’ve already made donations to our Museum’s Annual Fund, and to the more than 5,000 who renew your memberships year after year. Please take a moment to visit our YouTube page and watch a personal thank-you from our Museum staff. You also can find it at cbmm.org/give.htm. It’s just a small token of our deep appreciation and gratitude for your continuing generosity that remains the lifeblood of this institution we love.

Many thanks,
Museum receives donations at OysterFest

The November 3 OysterFest brought 2,500 visitors to campus, despite chilly weather and Superstorm Sandy just a few days before. Four generations of Parks family members once again met at the Museum to celebrate the legacies of brothers Bronza and Orville Parks, and to see the progress of the skipjack Rosie Parks restoration project. Bronza's grandchildren Pres Harding and Brenda Goodwin donated several hand tools used in boatbuilding by Bronza, as well as campaign signs and other items he used for running as County Commissioner shortly before his untimely death.

Fordham Brewing Company from Dover, DE, served up their popular Rosie Parks Oyster Stout portion of the profits from the sale of the oyster stout recipe. Fordham donated a small portion of the profits from the sale of the OysterFest. All restaurants are located in St. Michaels, MD. Lights oyster stew (stew ‘E’) as second, with third place going to Gourmet by OysterFest participants also picked St. Michaels Harbour Inn's Harbour Landing's oyster stew placed first, and was served as stew 'A' in the tastings. In blind taste tests and voting by ballot for their favorite stew. Sherwood's Dustin Shook, pres Harding, and Brenda Goodwin donated several hand tools used in boating by Bronza, as well as campaign signs and other items he used for running as County Commissioner shortly before his untimely death.

Fordham Brewing Company from Dover, DE, served up their popular Rosie Parks Oyster Stout portion of the profits from the sale of the oyster stout recipe. Fordham donated a portion of the profits from the sale of the Rosie Parks Oyster Stout to the Museum.

Inn at Perry Cabin wins oyster stew competition

Six restaurants competed in the Museum's November 3 Oyster Stew Competition at OysterFest, with more than 300 participants taking part in blind taste tests and voting by ballot for their favorite stew. Sherwood's Landing's oyster stew placed first, and was served as stew 'A' in the tastings. OysterFest participants also paid Will's Michaels Harbour Inn's Harbour Lights oyster stew (stew ‘EC’) as second, with third place going to Gourmet by the Bay (stew 'B'). All restaurants are located in St. Michaels, MD.

Shipwrights join the Museum

Shane Elliott of Knoxville, TN, Joe Larochelle of Quebec, Canada, and Eric Hervol of Seattle, WA, have joined the Museum as shipwright apprentices. Elliott recently completed a nine-month diploma program at the Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding in Port Hadlock, WA. He holds a bachelor’s of architecture degree from the University of Tennessee’s College of Architecture and Design in Knoxville. Elliott’s apprenticeship began with the project to restore the skipjack Rosie Parks. Elliott was introduced to the Chesapeake Bay in 2005 while working an architecture job in Falls Point, Baltimore. After sailing with a friend, he built a 12-foot plywood and epoxy dinghy, and hasn’t stopped building boats yet. Elliott continues as a longstanding volunteer with the Living Classrooms Foundation’s shipboard programs in Baltimore. During his one-year apprenticeship, he is splitting his time between St. Michaels and Baltimore.

Joe Larochelle began his apprenticeship working on the 1889 houseboat Edna E. Luckwood. He also brings a unique talent to his apprenticeship by offering interpretation of the Museum’s historic vessels and restoration work to French-speaking visitors. Larochelle recently earned his Comprehensive Boat Building Certificate of Completion from the Great Lakes Boatbuilding School in Cedarville, MI. Prior to Great Lakes, he also completed a woodworking program at the L’École des Métiers du Meubles School in Montreal. Larochelle became connected to the Museum through the recommendation of a former shipwright apprentice, Bud McIntire. McIntire currently serves as Director of Development & Student Services for the Great Lakes Boat Building School. This past summer, Larochelle worked in the Muskoka region in Ontario, working on classic wooden runabouts. During his one-year apprenticeship, he is residing in St. Michaels.

Eric Hervol began his apprenticeship with restoration work on the skipjack Rosie Parks. Hervol recently completed a nine-month diploma program at the Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding in Port Hadlock, WA. He also holds bachelor of arts degrees in computer science, mathematics and biology from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Hervol was introduced to the Chesapeake Bay in October 2012, while helping a friend move a boat to St. Michaels. His volunteer experience includes work with Friends of Trees in Portland, OR, Creve Coeur Fire Department in Missouri, and as a teacher on the schooner Adventuress out of Port Townsend, WA. During his one-year apprenticeship, he is living in St. Michaels.

NEW: CBMM Bird & Decoy Carving Group

A group of volunteer bird and decoy carvers are now meeting at the Museum on Thursdays and Fridays to share the tradition with other CBMM members interested in carving. For more information or if you’d like to join the group, please contact CBMM Volunteer Gene Rall at 410-829-8368.

Instructor Larry Parker, left, is helping Bob Herman, right, learn techniques used for decoy carving.
Museum receives grants to extend Living Shoreline

The Museum recently received a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the Maryland Department of the Environment to extend its living shoreline from Waterman’s Wharf to the property line bordering The Inn at Perry Cabin. Additional funding was provided through a generous Crystal Trust grant.

The $60,000 CBT grant is part of the total $800,000 awarded to 16 homeowner associations, non-profit organizations and municipalities throughout Maryland and Virginia, designed to encourage the installation and understanding of living shorelines throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Now in its seventh year, CBT’s Living Shorelines program has awarded more than four million dollars and leveraged $20 million from the private sector to date 28,000 linear feet of living shoreline and 18 acres of wetland habitat. The Museum completed the first two phases of its living shoreline in 2009, and is eager to finish the project.

“Our living shoreline has been a big success. It not only helps to improve water quality, it also adds natural beauty. We love to see both kids and adults looking for all of the animal life it holds,” said Museum President Langley Shook. For more information on the Chesapeake Bay Trust’s Living Shoreline program, visit cbtrust.org.

Run for CBMM at the May 18 St. Michaels Running Festival

The Museum recently joined the St. Michaels Running Festival as an official charity partner, and is looking for runner and walkers to help build the CBMM Team for this May 18, 2013 event. Every participant who signs up now for the Festival’s Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum Team will help raise much needed funds in support of our mission. The event includes a USA Track & Field (USTAF) certified half marathon course, a 10k course, and a 5k course. When you sign up, the St. Michaels Running Festival will donate 10% of all team registration fees to the Museum. In addition, runners can commit to raising additional funds through the Festival’s online charity platform.

What’s Up? Media donates proceeds to CBMM

What’s Up? Media publisher and president Veronica Tovey (pictured left) presents a check for $2,000 to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. The Museum was one of several beneficiaries of What’s Up? Media’s annual Best Of Party, celebrated in June. Also pictured are Museum President Langley Shook and Communications Manager Marie Thomas.

NEW EXHIBIT OPENS APRIL 12: Crisfield Carvings—Bird Hunting on Broad Waters

The city of Crisfield, MD, lies amid the vast stretches of marshland ringing Tangier Sound—an ideal habitat for the migratory birds that pass through every fall on their way south. Although well known as the seafood capital for the oysters and crabs that were packed there, Crisfield is just as well known for decoy carving in a distinctive local style. The Ward brothers—Lem and Steve—were the most famous of them, but Crisfield produced many more carvers, and hunters purchased their decoys for use far beyond these local waters. Crisfield’s waterfowling and carving traditions are nearly as old as the city itself. Founded after the Civil War, when a railroad spur line was extended across the marshes to reach the waters of Tangier Sound, downtown Crisfield is built on oyster shells—the discarded byproduct of the fishing industry that built the city. Will Sterling and Travis Ward, Sr., father of the Ward brothers, were among the first generation of decoy carvers in the community. They created a local style that was marked by a broad, flat bottom, which gave the duck or goose decoy maximum stability to minimize its wobble in the choppy, open waters of Tangier Sound. Unlike other waterfowl hunting regions, the local waterfowlers—and the decoy carvers who supplied them—did not concentrate entirely on these most popular ducks, but hunted almost every species of bird that passed through the area, from herons (locally “buncuties” and “wops”) on down to song birds. They carved—and hunted—bird species that were widely enjoyed as table fare, but also birds that fed on fish and shellfish, such as mergansers and loons. Among the more unusual species for decoys were flickers (locally “hammers”), which were hunted widely in the area and carved by several area decoy makers.

Crisfield’s waterfowling traditions are featured in Crisfield Carvings—Bird Hunting on Broad Waters, a special exhibit in the Museum’s Waterfowling Building with a member’s preview opening on Friday, April 12, 2013. The exhibit will open to the public the following day and remain through Sunday, November 3, 2013. See the calendar of events on page 22 for more information.
When the British brig Conflict sailed up the Miles River with 11 small boats in tow under cover of early morning darkness on August 10, 1813, they were expected. With no regular Army units available, militia units from all over Talbot County assembled in and around St. Michaels for about a week in advance of the attack. The Royal Marines landed just south of the town and overtook the battery on Parrott’s Point at the mouth of the harbor.

After spiking the cannon to render it useless, they returned to their boats and proceeded to turn their guns on the town. The militia’s artillery batteries inside the town returned fire. According to militia General Perry Benson’s official report, “some of the houses were perforated, but no injury to any living being.”

The British attacked again on August 26, landing at Wade’s Point and advancing on St. Michaels by road from the north, but they turned back again when they reached a wooded section that made a column of troops vulnerable. The defenders of St. Michaels numbered perhaps 500, and they came from companies all around Talbot County, and a few beyond. One of the largest companies was the St. Michaels Patriotic Blues, with just over 100 officers and men. These were citizen-soldiers, local farmers, tradesmen, even day laborers who were called up in the face of an emergency. Among the defenders were ten men named Porter, three of them in this company—John, Philip, and Perry, and Perry himself lived on Mulberry Street in the heart of the town he defended. Of the other seven, James Porter served in a Miles River Neck company, Tibbels Porter in two different Bayside companies, William Porter and Woolman Porter from Miles River, Isaac Porter from Wye Landing, and Robert L. Porter with the Easton Fencibles.

Last year, the Museum received an early American military musket. On the lock, its few markings “HENRY” and “CP” make it identifiable as the work of William Henry II, of Nazareth PA.

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When the war ended, militiamen were generally allowed to purchase their guns, and that is probably how this musket descended in the family. Although intended for military use, it was just as easily used with bird shot to bring home a duck or a goose. When it came to the Museum, it still had an old black powder load with bird shot. Such muskets are not scarce, and most, like this one, had the original flintlock replaced with a percussion lock for more reliable firing. But what makes this gun special is its connection with the efforts of American citizens to defend their homes on the Chesapeake—typically with less success than they had at St. Michaels.

Over the course of her teaching career, Lin taught pre-kindergarten through 8th grade, spending 20 years at Holy Trinity Episcopal School in Bowie, where she also served as the Director of Admissions and Development. The last ten years of teaching were spent at the Annapolis Area Christian School, where she taught 8th grade science and 8th grade math. Lin was responsible for reshaping the science curriculum into a combined hands-on study of life and environmental sciences, with a primary focus on Chesapeake Bay studies. Lin and Peter currently live in Arcadia Shores in St. Michaels and raise oysters at their dock for the Maryland Oyster Restoration Program. When she’s not at the Museum, Lin also volunteers with the United Fund of Talbot County and Christmas in St. Michaels, and enjoys kayaking, gardening, photography, drawing, Colonial history studies, genealogy, and bible study.

The musket will be a part of the new exhibit, Navigating Freedom: The War of 1812 on the Chesapeake, which opens on May 11. Read more about the exhibit on page 14.

Volunteer Profile: Lin Moeller

by Marie Thomas

Shortly after a 2009 move to the Eastern Shore with husband Peter, Lin Moeller signed up to volunteer at the Museum. As a science teacher in Annapolis, Lin frequently brought students to the Museum on field trips and was familiar with the educational programs offered, and knew the value of docent volunteers intimately.

“As I was retiring from teaching, being a docent was perfect in maintaining my interest in the Bay and working with children,” explains Lin, who primarily leads students on Bay History and Bay Bounty Tours, and the Oystering Legacy Program. In addition, Lin is involved with the Crab Cakes Program and serves as a crew member on the Mister Jim during ecology cruises, as well as helping with kids’ summer camps and assisting the Director of Education with developing special tours.

“My favorite part of volunteering is getting students actively involved in what the Museum has to offer, to imagine and experience living in various time periods and taking on the roles of a Native American, a waterman, a lighthouse keeper, and so on,” says Lin. “Along with this, encouraging students to think about and become aware of changes that have taken place over the last 400 years.”

Lin’s connection to history and the outdoors runs deep. Originally from the small rural town of Canton, CT, Lin grew up on a 1700s Colonial farm, close to where her ancestors first settled in the area in the 1600s. After graduating from Eastern Connecticut State University with a degree in education, Lin and Peter eventually settled in Maryland, where she earned a master’s of education from the University of Maryland at College Park, and their daughter Susanne was born in 1969.

Through a series of informative and hands-on orientation sessions, the Museum provides volunteers with a wealth of knowledge about Chesapeake culture, history, and its environment. All volunteers participate in basic training sessions and have the opportunity to expand their knowledge with specialized training sessions, focusing on specific topics and programs. Contact Melissa Spelman at 410-745-4956 for more information, or email volunteer@cbmm.org.

Docent Volunteer Training, Van Lennep Auditorium

These sessions are for docents who have completed the annual General Tour Training. The two-part sessions offer background and content information, as well as practical applied instruction in CBMM’s exhibits and campus. Both sessions are mandatory for each program training to be successfully completed. Contact Director of Education Kate Livie at klivie@cbmm.org or 410-745-4947 for more information or to register.

Bay Bounty Tour Training: March 7 & 8 from 10am-12:30pm
Bay Discovery Tour Training: March 14 & 15 from 10am-12:30pm
Oystering Legacy Tour Training: March 21 & 22 from 10am-12:30pm
Crab Cakes Program Training: March 28 & 29 from 10am-12:30pm
Community Conversations: State of the Oyster
by Robert Forloney

The Museum’s Center for Chesapeake Studies, in conjunction with the Maryland Humanities Council, presents the State of the Oyster Program—the first in an annual series of public programming initiatives entitled “Community Conversations,” that emphasize public discussion and outreach to new audiences. The State of the Oyster Program will focus on the status of the oyster fishery and its past, present, and future significance to different Bay communities over the course of four Sunday afternoons in late February and early March.

These programs will pose the question of whether and how oyster production can continue as a backbone of the region’s culture and economy. While biological aspects of the “oyster question” will be addressed, the primary focus will be on the cultural and social dynamics of this issue. One of the most significant goals of the project is to host public forums where stakeholders holding different, and in some cases conflicting, perspectives can have meaningful conversations.

The Maryland Humanities Council has provided the seed money for this innovative project which will also include an art exhibition, original video production, and new research as part of the overall program. Each session will examine a particular aspect of this complicated topic: the social history of Chesapeake oyster production and conservation; the causes of the oyster crash; the traditions, expertise, and perspectives of watermen; and the possibilities and consequences for addressing the imperiled state of oystering. Programs include presentations by historians and scientists as well as oyster harvesters and processors. In addition, questions and comments from the audience and mediated group discussions between the presenters and the public will be emphasized. Throughout the duration of this project, photographs and paintings depicting the daily activities of watermen will be displayed in the Van Lennep Auditorium, providing a stimulus for reflection and conversation.

Video clips of watermen engaged in activities such as tonging, the inner workings of processing plants, and scientists engaged in actual field work will be shown at the beginning of each program in order to provide context for the topics being discussed. There will be something to engage all participants and learning styles. Please refer to the calendar of events on page 22 for specific dates and times.

What’s Fresh? Seasonal Selections from Education
by Kate Livie

This winter, as campus cleared of school children and summer visitors, the Education Department took advantage of the relative quiet to offer a slate of fun programs to keep Museum members, volunteers, and the wider world engaged in our mission as the bitter cold settled in and even the geese on Fogg’s Cove hunkered down.

Looking ahead, we’ve got a spring and summer season that’s bursting with every educational opportunity you can imagine: training sessions, workshops, classes, camps, lectures, paddles, and festivals. But you don’t have to be on the Eastern Shore to take advantage of CBMM’s educational content—through our education blog, Beautiful Swimmers, beautifulswimmers.tumblr.com, the compelling stories, photographs, and history that make Chesapeake Bay and this museum so unforgettable are at your fingertips, wherever you are.

What is the origin of ALL those great ideas?
by Eddy Collet

For nearly twelve years, the Academy for Lifelong Learning (ALL) at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum has offered a wide variety of lectures, round table discussions, workshops, and field trips. ALL’s 300 members choose from 15 to 20 different programs each season. Have you ever wondered where we get all those great ideas? Well the answer is simple—we get our ideas from people just like you.

ALL is a learning cooperative, and the majority of course ideas and instructors come from our membership. We are not your typical continuing education program with a standard curriculum—our courses grow organically from the interests and expertise of our membership.

If you live on the Eastern Shore of Maryland you know the area is full of individuals with extraordinary life experiences, diverse points of view, and lots of know-how in many different fields. From Shakespeare to American art, from the Big Bang to health and well-being, from iPads to boating, from political science to the history of God, from quilting to writing, and more—our programs are as rich and varied as our membership.

ALL is a community committed to the exploration of ideas, exchanging knowledge and sharing experiences. If you are not yet a member we hope you will consider joining us. Whether or not you are a member, we invite you to consider leading a course or program. This coming May we are offering a workshop to gather ideas for new course selections and to encourage prospective course leaders. The workshop is an opportunity to work together to consider potential new course ideas, as well as a time for experienced course leaders to provide support and training for new leaders. If you have an idea but are not sure how to put it together, we can provide a mentor to advise you on getting started.

Details on the May workshop will be forthcoming, but feel free to address inquiries to the curriculum committee at all3@cbmm.org. If you would like a copy of the current course catalog call Helen Van Fleet at 410-745-4941. Visit us on Facebook and/or check out our website at cbmm.org/all.

CBMM Summer Sailing Program instructor & volunteers needed

Help the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum teach the fun, excitement, and adventure of sailing on the Miles River! We are seeking sailing instructors and volunteers to assist the Education Department with teaching children and adults the fundamentals and technical skills of sailing on our JY 15 vessels.

All instructors must be certified in Boaters Safety and/or lifeguarding through the American Red Cross. Applicants for the head sailing instructor position must additionally be US Sailing Certified Level 1. Volunteers must have prior sailing experience. Sailing Program instructors and volunteers must be safe, patient, and good at explaining concepts and techniques of sailing. Candidates must have experience and skill working with children and should be excellent communicators and teachers. This has been a highly successful program for our youth and family audiences.

Employment dates: June 10th – August 28th

To apply for an instructor position, please send resume with references to Human Resources, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, P. O. Box 636, St. Michaels, Maryland 21663 or e-mail catwood@cbmm.org.
The first of its kind, this new exhibit explores the War as seen through the eyes of the men and women who lived through it. Here is just one of their stories.

by Kate Livie & Robert Forloney

The barest finger of a breeze stirred the sultry Chesapeake air that summer day in 1814 on Doctor John Beall’s plantation. It whispered through the acres of leathery tobacco leaves, and stopped the saline bead descending down Frisby Harris’ forehead. Frisby, “a slave of so useful abilities” according to his owner’s agent D.A. Hall, had been hired out in the thick of the growing season to the tobacco and wheat farm on God’s Graces Point. The plantation’s flat expanse of farmland opened its eyes to the river, looking downstream and out to the flowing main body of the Chesapeake Bay, the economic lifeblood and highway of far-flung farms like these. The muddy oxbows and marshy switchbacks of the Patuxent may not have looked like it, but they and other Bay tributaries were the most important to the new Americans of the Bay country’s tidewater.

When the British boots touched the shoreline and picked their way inland through the tuckahoe and cattail to burn and loot, Harris cast off his toil and joined their ranks. As the big house burned at God’s Graces Point and the fine Georgian paneling charred and turned to ash, Frisby Harris helped loot Dr. Beall’s furniture. Less than a week later, as the British soldiers torched the Calvert County courthouse, Harris was observed by eyewitness Barbara Fowler “in company with said troops with a sword by his side” and reportedly “acting as an officer” according to another witness, Robert Yoe. Frisby Harris’ dramatic turn from Patuxent slave to corporal in the Royal Marines is just one of the extraordinary narratives told by CBMM’s new exhibit, *Navigating Freedom: The War of 1812 on the Chesapeake*. (Documentation of Harris’ account provided by the Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland, Maryland State Archives.)

Harris represents the thousands of slaves who escaped during the conflict, spotting British warships approaching in the distance and fleeing in small craft and skiffs to the protection and liberty offered by the enemy of the United States. He also represents the untold, overshadowed stories that linger behind and between the battles, the patriotism, the “bombs bursting in air” and the tales of bravery that permeate most of our public concepts and stereotypes about the War of 1812.

In *Navigating Freedom*, we explore the War of 1812 through these unlauded, forgotten Chesapeake residents of many creeds and colors who found opportunity.
or misfortune amid the conflict: black and white everyday Americans, militiamen, Baltimore merchants, St. Michaels shipbuilders, and Quakers. Their diaries, artifacts, portraits, and articles reveal their personal stories, and the new ways the War of 1812 on the Chesapeake challenged American ideas about freedom.

The Exhibition

Navigating Freedom: The War of 1812 on the Chesapeake is a groundbreaking exhibit, both here at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum and on a national scale as well. While traditional interpretations of the conflict tend to focus on major land and naval battles, illustrious American and British heroes, and the political machinations of nation against nation, Navigating Freedom explores the transformation, impact and legacy of the War of 1812 through the lives of the men and women directly affected by the political, economic, and emotional upheaval. The sources of these intimate accounts of a national struggle are the product of new research from a variety of collaborators including CBMM’s own Center for Chesapeake Studies (CCS): Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland Program at the Maryland State Archives, Pulitzer-prize winning historian Dr. Alan Taylor, and Dr. Jennifer Dorsey, professor and author of Hirelings: African-American Workers and Free Labor in Early Maryland, among others.

A team of expert curatorial and design professionals led by Rick Beard, Laura Friedman and Ken Yellis helped translate the extensive original research into an exhibit that dynamically connects the visitor with the War of 1812 as seen through the perspectives of Bay folk across the social and economic spectrum—slaves who became free and settled in Nova Scotia as British citizens, shipbuilders in St. Michaels, a captured Quaker mother and her small children, British naval commanders, plantation owners who traded with the enemy under the protection of a white flag, and their slaves who guided the British through the Chesapeake’s swampy inlets. In addition, CCS partnered with the GIS lab at Washington College to generate a 3D virtual flyover of the Battle of St. Michaels, as well as maps highlighting the cultural landscapes of the area. Through their own words and artifacts, Navigating Freedom allows voices of the past to explain how no one in the Chesapeake was protected from the echoes of war. Navigating Freedom opens on Saturday, May 11, 2013. Members are invited for a special guided tour with CCS Director Robert Forloney, beginning at 11am. Additional stories, research, and activities will be shared with the public beyond CBMM’s campus through an interactive online exhibit, curriculum materials, teacher workshops, and a wide variety of public programs for all ages. For more information about this initiative, contact Robert Forloney at rforloney@cbmm.org or call 410-745-4999. More information is also available online at cbmm.org.

For Navigating Freedom, the Museum received more than $110,000 in support from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority and a Star Spangled 200 grant from the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission. This includes funding for the outside expert consultants as well as the exhibition development, innovative interactives, on-line virtual exhibition, a school curriculum with associated teacher workshops and a variety of public programming. Aside from the physical exhibition itself, this War of 1812 initiative will have a series of long-lasting and diverse products for a number of audiences.

Partners

- Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland, Maryland State Archives
- Center for Environment and Society’s GIS Program, Washington College
- Dr. Alan Taylor
- Dr. Jennifer Dorsey
- Talbot County Public Schools
- National Park Service

Funding

- Maryland Heritage Areas Authority
- Star Spangled 200 Grant from the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission

Don’t Miss:

How Escaped Slaves Liberated the British

Wednesday, April 10, 6-8pm, Van Lennep Auditorium

$8 members, $10 non-members

Pre-register with Helen Van Fleet at 410-745-4941.

Read more on page 23.
Two decades ago, Trudie Jones of Cambridge, MD, was a young mother looking for insights into family legends surrounding the life and times of her famous boatbuilding grandfather, Bronza Parks. She was just three years old in 1958 when Parks was shot to death in his Wingate, Dorchester County, boatshop by a deranged customer during a dispute over a bill. Jones has no memory of her grandfather but grew up listening to her mother, grandmother and family friends tell stories about the big man with the rough hands who left an indelible mark on the history of Chesapeake Bay watercraft.

“I don’t know why I needed to know more about him, but I felt moved to do so,” Jones recalls. “I am a spiritual person and a Christian and I just felt moved by God to do this.”

So in 1992, armed with little more than her drive to learn more, along with her children’s plastic Fisher Price tape recorder, she tracked down two of Bronza’s protégés, who were by then getting on in years themselves. She started her project by calling the family friends whom she had known most of her life, Tom Dean and P. O’Neal Dean.

“I told them at the time that I was thinking about writing something and I wanted to make sure it was accurate.” Tom, who passed away in 2001 at the age of 83, and O’Neal, who was 78 when he died in 2006, were both from Wingate but not related. Each of them spent more than an hour in separate telephone interviews with Jones. They recalled their first jobs working for Parks, his work ethic, his demand for the highest quality and his occasional light side. (“Bronzy could be quite comical, once you got to know him,” O’Neal Dean is heard saying.)

They talked about the hard work in an era before electricity and the camaraderie of life in a small tidewater town. And they talked about the life skills and personal kindness Bronza imparted to them. Looking back, Jones says what she learned from the men seemed to satisfy her quest.

“I just never felt moved to pursue it further.” She gave copies of the tapes to family members, including her cousin, Pres Harding of Chestertown, who was collecting Parks family memorabilia. And that’s where the tapes sat. But like other aspects of the legend of Bronza Parks, there has been a renewed interest in his life and work since the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum began the restoration of one of his most famous vessels, the skipjack Rosie Parks. Now in its final year, the project directed by Master Shipwright Marc Barto, will see the Rosie relaunched and reborn in November, 2013.

Jones’ tapes bring to life the voices of the men who worked side-by-side with Bronza Parks from the 1930s start of his company right up to his untimely death. Tom Dean was one of Bronza’s first crew members. O’Neal Dean, who was almost 10 years younger than Tom, started working for Bronza right after World War II. Here are some of Tom and O’Neal Deans’ responses to questions posed by Jones in March, 1992:

“Now, Tom, can you tell me when you first started working for Papa?”

“That was one of my first jobs. We were making gasoline boats, workboats. I was making $6 a week. We were workin’ 60 hours a week and we were selling workboats, all completed with motors and everything for $600 ready for the man to go crabbin’ in. I worked with my father on the water but as far as building boats, I had no knowledge about building boats at all. He (Bronza) taught me to do good work and I always prided myself in the work that he taught me to do.”

Jones asks a similar question of O’Neal Dean who says,

“I had just come out of the Navy and the first job I got I worked for a guy there in Cambridge and we had to ride the buses back then and I thought why can’t I find a job here locally so went down and asked him if he had any work. He says, ‘Well, what can you do?’ And I said, ‘Just about nothing.’ He says, ‘Well you’re just the man I’m lookin’ for. Cuz I tell ya just about everybody I hire, if they’re done carpenter work, they want to do it the way they want to. This way, I get someone like you says you don’t know anything about it, then you’ll learn my way and that’ll be the way I want it done.’ So that’s the way it started, right there.”

Both Tom and O’Neal Dean talked at length about the long hours and hard physical work, but they did so with a sense of pride and accomplishment. As Tom Dean put, “You either did the work or someone else would.” Tom Dean’s experiences, however, started in the days long before South Dorchester County received electricity. In one exchange, he talks about boatbuilding in the early 1930s.

“It was hard work. You didn’t get a ten minute break. You didn’t get a smoke break. You worked from 7am until 11:30 and you had lunch and then you worked from noon to five. That was a time when everybody worked. The hardest work was when we got a whole load in and we hewed the keelson out with an axe. There would be two of us with axes and chop that keelson out and shaped it up.
“When we were working, he [Bronza] always liked to get the boats looking better and styled better and have the fare lines. Fare lines mean there aren’t any little bumps. Fare lines mean they are pleasant to the eye. Fare lines is not spelled F-a-i-r, it is spelled F-a-r-e.

It all paid off because when a boat went out it caught your eye, like a car that all shined up that makes you want to turn around and take that second look, you know, sort of like a pretty woman.”

-O’Neal Dean

“I told this guy, ‘You know you got some kinks in there and I don’t think Bronza’s going to like that.’ He says, ‘They don’t look all that bad to me.’

That evening I stayed later. So [Bronza] come home from Cambridge and climbed up inside. He says, ‘You wouldn’t have a hatchet in that tool box would ya?’ I said, ‘Ya, I got one.’

Well he went up in there and I hear all this choppin.’ He cut every bit out of there that guy was all day long puttin’ in there. He cut every daggone piece of it right out. He says, ‘I don’t understand it. Some people can’t see right. He knew I wouldn’t like it and I tore every piece of it out.

When we were working, he always liked to get the boats looking better and styled better and have the fare lines.

Fare lines means there aren’t any little bumps. Fare lines means they are pleasant to the eye. Fare lines is not spelled F-a-i-r, it is spelled F-a-r-e. It all paid off because when a boat went out it caught your eye, like a car all shined up, you just turn around and take that second look.”

By the mid-1950s, B.M. (the ‘M’ stands for Martin) Parks Boat Builders was turning out 25 work and pleasure boats a year. “I am sure that there were 10, 11 or 12 boats going there at one time,” O’Neal recalls.

One family legend that Trudi Jones tries to track down with O’Neal is an oft-told story of how Bronza would make a grand entrance by first throwing his hat into a room and then cart-wheel though the door. O’Neal is first confused by the question, thinking she has asked if he ever made a wheel for a cart.

Trudi pauses and asks “Tom, I have one request. Would you sing, ‘A Closer Walk With Thee?’”

Dean, who was then 73, doesn’t miss a beat and slips into an a cappella rendition of the old hymn.

I am weak, but Thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong; I’ll be satisfied as long

As I walk, let me walk closer to Thee. Dear Lord, let it be. Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Parks family members still recall hearing that favorite song, sung with a mournful tone at the close of Bronza Parks’ funeral, 55 years ago.

A note from Trudi Jones:

“I am truly honored to know that the recorded conversations I had with two of my grandfather’s long time employees will be shared. These conversations have been deeply treasured by me and it is my hope that these will continue to tell the story of Bronza Parks’ legacy and how much people loved him.”
UPCOMING MEMBER EVENTS:

**An Evening with Marc Castelli**

Tuesday, March 12
Free. 5:30pm in the Van Lennep Auditorium
RSVP to Debbie Collison at 410-745-4943

Renowned artist Marc Castelli will share a unique slide presentation featuring his annual show of photographs collected while out on the water in all the fisheries for the year (August to August). Light refreshments served and space is limited.

**Blessing of the Fleet**

Wednesday, April 17
Free. 4:30pm under the Hooper Strait Lighthouse
RSVP to Debbie Collison at 410-745-4941

Help launch this year’s boating season with members, volunteers, and boathay staff for an official ceremony honoring our own floating fleet of Bay boats, as well as local work boats. Ceremony will be performed by Reverend Kevin M. Cross. Refreshments served.

**Members Preview – Crisfield Carvings**

Friday, April 12
5:30pm. Waterfowling Building
Free. refreshments served. Pre-register with Cheryl Miller at 410-745-4943 or email cmiller@cbmm.org

Join CBMM Chief Curator Pete Lesher for a special member’s preview opening of the new special exhibit Crisfield Carvings—Bird Hunting on Broad Waters.

**Member Guided Tour – Navigating Freedom: War of 1812 on the Chesapeake**

Saturday, May 11
Free. 11am in the Steamboat Gallery
Join Director of the Center for Chesapeake Studies Robert Forfey and for a special member’s preview opening of the new exhibit. Refreshments served.

**Concert: United States Naval Academy Band Commandant’s Combo**

Tuesday, June 4
Free. 6pm at the Tolchester Bandstand

Sit back and enjoy the music from one of the most requested groups the USNA offers. Led by Senior Chief Musician Blake Cramer, the five-piece ensemble infuses elements of traditional jazz, New Orleans ragtime, and Brazilian music into its own arrangements of time-honored jazz, classic, and popular music. The combo’s varied programming includes music from Leonard Bernstein to John Lennon and Stevie Wonder to Pearl Jam. Museum members enjoy free refreshments served at a VIP hospitality area during the concert. Bring a chair for seating. Leashed pets and picnics welcome.

**Model Guild: Build a lapsf rake skiff**

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, February 22, 23, 24
6-9pm. $80 members, $95 non-members. Pre-registration required by Monday, Feb. 18 to Helen Van Fleet at 410-745-4941

Led step-by-step by skilled members, participants create a 10-inch wooden rowing skiff with lapped side planking and a flat bottom.

**Model Guild: Build a half-shell model of the Pride of Baltimore II**

Saturday & Sunday, March 23 & 24
9am-5pm. $80 members, $95 non-members. Tools and materials supplied. $80 members, $95 non-members. Pre-registration required by Monday, March 18 to Helen Van Fleet at 410-745-4941

Led step-by-step by skilled members, participants create a half-shell model of the clipper Pride of Baltimore II. CBMM’s Model Guild welcomes anyone 12 years of age and older and encourages new members of all skill levels. A special rate for a parent-child team can accommodate younger children. Contact Model Guild Director Bob Mason at 410-745-3266 for more information or email bobmason@artofcitizen.net

**How Escaped Slaves Liberated the British**

Wednesday, April 10
6-8pm in the Van Lennep Auditorium
$8 for members, $10 for non-members
Pre-register with Helen Van Fleet at 410-745-4941

Join Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alan Taylor as he speaks on his current book-in-progress about the impact of the War of 1812 on slavery in the Chesapeake region, the role of British soldiers as liberators, and the invaluable services runway slaves provided to the British campaign.

**Boat Safety Classes**

April 17 & 18, May 15 & 16, June 12 & 13, July 17 & 18, August 15 & 16
6-10pm, $25 per two-evening session Pre-register with Helen Van Fleet at 410-745-4941

Individuals and families with children over 12 are welcome to participate in our Boat Safety certification program and learn the basics needed to operate a vessel on Maryland waterways. MD boaters born after July 1, 1972 are required to have a Certificate of Boating Safety Education. Graduates of our two-day Department of Natural Resources-approved course are awarded a certificate that is good for life.

**Pride of Baltimore II**

Sat., 10am–4pm & Sun., 10am–3pm Pre-registration required by Monday, March 18 to helen Van fleet at 410-745-4941

Your group can spend the night in our 1879 Hooper Strait Lighthouse. Travel back in time to experience the rustic life of a lighthouse keeper with hands-on, interactive activities, games, and stories. The program is designed for youth groups, children’s organizations, and scouts, ages 8-12 (and their chaperones). The cost is $500 for up to 15 participants and chaperones and includes the overnight program fee, two day’s admission, an official lighthouse patch, a copy of “From a Lighthouse Window,” and a Miles River boat ride on the Mister Jim (subject to seasonal availability).

Visit our online calendar at cbmm.org for the most up-to-date information on all upcoming events.
Free Daily Events

Memorial Day through Labor Day (with paid admission, free for members)* free events do not include Sailing Saturdays or Mister Jim Cruises, listed below in RED.

PUBLIC TOURS
What: 45-minute highlights tour
When: Friday & Saturday Time: 11am & 2pm

WATERMAN’S WHARF
What: Docent interpretation
When: Everyday Time: 11am-3pm

CHESAPEAKE PEOPLE
What: Visit with authentic Chesapeake people who share their stories
When: Saturdays Time: 11am-3pm

FAMILY DROP-INS
What: Kid themed, hands-on activities (crafts or tours)
When: Thursdays & Fridays Time: 2-4pm

BOATYARD SKILLS DEMONSTRATION
What: Learn traditional boatyard skills from a trained shipwright
When: Monday - Friday Time: 1:30pm

COMMUNITY WORK DAYS: SKIPJACK RESTORATION
What: Work under the guidance of a master shipwright to help rebuild the skipjack Rosie Parks
When: Saturdays Time: 10am-3pm

SAILING SATURDAYS
What: Try your hand at sailing one of our Apprentice For a Day boats. Boats range in size and are perfect for one or two people, with instructions provided for beginners. Space is limited and pre-registration is recommended. Call 410-745-4965 to reserve, otherwise, it’s first-come, first-served.
*Dates subject to change due to weather.
When: June 22, July 13, August 10, September 7
*Cost: $10 per session

MISTER JIM CRUISES
What: Climb aboard the buyboat Mister Jim for a 30-minute scenic cruise on the Miles River.
When: Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays
Time: 12noon, 1pm, 2pm & 3pm
*Cost: $10 per person, free for kids 16 and under with Museum admission.

Save the Date! 2013

Summer Sailing Program
June 24 – August 16
More information to be announced. Contact Director of Education Kate Livie at 410-745-4947 with questions or email klivie@cbmm.org
Explore the Miles River and learn maritime skills in our Summer Sailing Program, where new sailors and old salts gain the confidence to sail a small boat in a fun, safe, and encouraging environment.

Kids Club
June 24 – August 2
More information to be announced. Contact Director of Education Kate Livie at 410-745-4947 with questions or email klivie@cbmm.org
The Museum’s weekly Kids Club is a half-day, hands-on Chesapeake-focused camp for kids ages 4 to 7, where children learn about the Bay firsthand through activities, stories, games, and crafts.

Skipjack Rosie Parks Restoration Update

by Eric Hervol & Shane Elliott

Restoration of the skipjack Rosie Parks continues with topside work after the completion of caulking and sealing the deck. The skipjack’s topside configuration includes one main forward hatch built in two sections, a small hatch aft, and a deckhouse large enough to shelter three to five people. In the fall of 2012, the shipwrights began work on the Douglas fir and white oak forward hatch. This work consisted of installing the hatch sides, or “trunk,” an oak ledger, oak beams and fir top strakes. The hatch was built as one unit, and then cut into two pieces while in place to ensure a tight fit.

After the forward hatch was completed, the deckhouse was built in a similar fashion. The existing deckhouse was too rotten to salvage, but was intact enough to measure for replication. The sides were built with the rough window and companionway openings in place, to be finished later. With a consistent rough opening, the cabin windows were then built all at one time on the bench and installed after varnishing.

Next came the monkey rails, or low rails, along the sides of the boat, aft of the oyster dredge amidships. The rails were patterned from the shape of the existing boat, cut out from oak stock, and installed with ½” galvanized rod. The rail was then sanded smooth after installation.

As the topside work nears completion, shipwrights will move on to rudder installation and preparation for spring painting and varnishing. Stop by on Saturdays during the Community Work Days Program and help shipwrights restore the Rosie.

SAVE THE DATE: OysterFest & the Rosie Parks Launch Saturday, November 2, 2013

(first row, left) Sharon Parks Weber and her husband Rob help Shipwright Apprentice Shane Elliott glue bungs into the forward hatch.
(first row, right) Shipwright Apprentice Ken Phillips and Volunteer Cliff Strettmeyer drill fasteners in the chicken beak.
(second row, left) Shipwright Apprentice Shane Elliott drills for galvanized iron pins in the monkey rail.
(second row, right) Elliott continues to drill for galvanized iron pins while building the main cabin, or the “doghouse.”
(third row, left) The overall view of progress on the Rosie Parks restoration, as of January 2013.
(third row, right) An overhead view of the Rosie from January, 2011.
AFAD building replica
Ghost skiff

Participants in the Museum’s Apprentice for a Day (AFAD) public boatbuilding program have begun work building a replica of the deadrise bateau skiff, Ghost. Built circa 1916-1920 in Shadyside, Maryland by Captain Charles Edward Leatherbury, the 15’9” x 5’10” skiff is noted for its herringbone planking and sharp deadrise increasing at the bow and stern.

AFAD participants began the process by taking the lines off the historic skiff. They will continue step-by-step on select Saturdays and Sundays through May, 2013, with drop-in and scheduled participants welcome. The new boat will be planked in cedar and decked in sassafras, with frames of oak. Most of her other structural members will be constructed of white oak, with the forefoot made up of “chunks” with the grain parallel to the herringbone planking. A single, 146-square-foot leg-of-mutton sail will be created at the museum during the program, and will later be carried on a raked mast.

Donated to CBMM in 1966 by Mrs. Milton Offutt, Ghost sailed the Severn River extensively until WWII, and later traveled with the bugeye Richard J. Vetra to log canoe races and other regattas along with log canoes Island Bird and Magic.

AFAD’s Journeyman Special continues through May. Choose any four classes for $150 for members and $200 for non-members. Single drop-in classes are $45 for members and $55 for non-members. Must be 16 or older unless accompanied by an adult. Email questions to afad@cbmm.org or call Jenn Kuhn at 410-745-2916.
People who love the Bay belong to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

JOIN US in connecting to one of the world’s most spectacular and important waterways — the Chesapeake Bay.

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*Recommended “Best Value” Level

SEVERAL WAYS TO JOIN

Online ★ www.cbmm.org/join.htm
By Phone ★ 410-745-4991
In Person ★ visit CBMM
By Mail ★ use the enclosed remittance envelope

MEMBER BENEFITS

★ Free general admission
★ Free or reduced admission to annual festivals and exhibit openings
★ Docking privileges
★ Express entry and a members-only hospitality area during special events
★ Exclusive “Member Night” programs
★ Member decal and membership cards
★ Discounts on classes and programs
★ Subscription to The Chesapeake Log
★ Discounts at the Museum Store and at local accommodations, restaurants, and retailers