



AUGUST 2021 | SUMMER EDITION

MISSISSIPPI MARITIME MUSEUM & ACTIVITY CENTER

Official Newsletter

JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI



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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

As President of the Mississippi Maritime Museum (MMM), I hope our members and supporters are having a great summer and remaining safe from any form of COVID-19.

The MMM Board under the leadership of our museum Executive Director, Lorren West, has made great strides this summer with educating our youth with the implementation of several youth maritime educational programs. Many thanks go to our Board of Directors member Patti Brooks for her help this summer along with Kyle Williams, our museum's education program specialist and Diane Sullivan, assistant to our executive director. Please read our Director's report on on-going summer maritime educational projects.

The MMM Board will continue to move forward with our mission to educate our citizens and youth on the importance of the maritime industry to the Mississippi Gulf Coast and our nation. We need your help by telling your friends and coworkers about MMM and the importance of our 300 year maritime heritage. Please make a contribution and visit our website at msmartimemuseum.org to see the exciting things going on at MMM.

If you haven't already please get vaccinated against COVID-19. The vaccine is the only way we can stop this devastating virus.

Thanks,

Perry Thompson

Perry Thompson
MMM, President

Say a Prayer

by Edgar A. Guest

Wherever you happen to be
When the Angelus sounds on high
Say a prayer for the boys at sea
And the boys of land and sky.

Whenever a church bell chimes
Bow thy head at the solemn tones
And pray in these perilous times
For the boys of our battle zones.

Ask God for His love divine
And His great protecting care
For the boys of His battle line
In a moment of silent prayer.

Wherever you happen to hear
The bells of the temple spire
Pray God to be always near
The boys who are under fire.



Submitted by Cynthia Garlich

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AHOY to all our maritime friends, families and community members, Did you know the Chevron Refinery in Pascagoula processes approximately 351,000 barrels of crude oil daily, which equals 6,450,000 gallons of gasoline each day!!! I trust you all are enjoying the spring rains and summer heat! 10+ inches of rainwater over our usual monthly average. It is a great time to be a mariner when it rains!

Our Mississippi Maritime Museum is continuing this year with maritime energy, optimism and enthusiasm!

Our Annual Membership Meeting held May 13, 2021, was a fantastic opportunity to introduce our future maritime endeavors and instill maritime passion within our communities!

Your maritime museum continues with many areas of development this year. Our first National Maritime Day was held May 21, 2021, at Pascagoula's The Point. Our celebration day showcased boats in partnership with Signet Tugboats, The Bar Pilot's Association, NOAA, United States Coast Guard, and the Pascagoula Police Department. In addition, we enjoyed booths sponsored by the local Junior Auxiliary and CASA. Both agencies offered fun arts and crafts for everyone. TV 13-WLOX

provided local TV coverage highlighting our visiting boats in action.

Our current real estate development is underway. We are transforming our warehouse space into an exhibit area that will be open to the public. Exhibits will be interactive and focus on our maritime history, local underwater archeology/shipwrecks and the start of Mississippi's own Maritime Research and Archive Center.

Our summer educational camp classes held in conjunction with the Pascagoula Recreation department are a wonderful addition to our maritime programming. We have enjoyed this maritime adventure so much; we have decided to partner with the Rec Dept through the Fall. We will be offering classes in the afternoons to local pre-teen students. Enjoy more summer class news throughout this newsletter.

Our American Red Cross Blood drive allowed 20 local citizens to donate blood. Our museum members SAVED LIVES! Thank you!

Our important community partnerships continue to grow with the addition of the Pascagoula Audubon Center, Wildlife and Fisheries, teachers from PGSD, and Emerald Coast Science Center near Fort Walton Beach, FL.

Our Activity Center now hosts monthly meetings including local WWII Heritage committee, Daughters of the American Revolution and the Jackson County Genealogical and Historical society.

We recently celebrated a grant application submission to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resource Tideland project. Our \$300,000 grant application entitled "Preservation and Public Improvement of the Bayou Communny Tributary," will create a public access marine-focused greenspace on our very own marsh land for our beloved homeport of Pascagoula! We hope this grant will meet approval. The approval outcome is decided in November of 2022. Keep the Faith!

A recent family trip to Philadelphia, PA allowed me the pleasure of visiting our partner The Independence Maritime Museum of Philadelphia. Located on the Delaware River, the maritime museum allowed me to spend time learning development strategies of their archives center, ship and boat building exhibits, educational classroom set-ups, equipment, IT needs and visitor experience initiatives.

I am excited to relay we have hired Diane Sullivan on a part time basis to assist me with administrative

duties. Diane joins our team with over 10+ years experience in both the Hospitality industry as well as office management.

Kyle Williams joins us as Education Programming Specialist. Kyle has a tremendous background in maritime historical events and educational instruction. He is currently seeking a 2nd Master's degree in History with a focus on underwater archaeology with the University of West Florida.

This is just a sample of our current maritime projects. Please know our maritime team desires to provide you with upcoming maritime experiences and programming.

We continue to work to ensure a diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible museum and activity center for all to enjoy.

We appreciate you as a valued member, your belief in our future maritime success and passion for our gulf coast Mississippi maritime history preservation and promotion.

Please feel free to email me at Irrnwest1@gmail.com with any questions or valued input.

Many maritime blessings,

Lorren West

Lorren West
Executive Director

FROM THE DESK OF OUR EDUCATION PROGRAM SPECIALIST

I recently visited the Emerald Coast Science Center in Fort Walton Beach, Florida to better understand different approaches to the goal of education through a museum experience. Diane Fraser, the Executive Director, and Hank Christian, a board member, were nice enough to take the time to welcome me to their museum and display the importance of museum education and how it can contribute to the community. After a tour of their facility, we sat down and talked about our museum, MMM, and what our goals were and how we fit into our community. I cannot say enough about

Diane and Hank and how welcoming and informative they were. They were overly excited about our growth and stressed anything they can do to help do not hesitate to ask. They said they cannot wait to visit!

We finished our week of summer camp with the kids from the Pascagoula Recreation Department. Mrs. Patti Brooks and I have had a blast with the kids this summer. We had four classes a week ranging from 5 and 6 year-olds to 11 and 12 year-old kids. It has been extremely rewarding for Mrs. Brooks and I working with the kids and seeing their interest

and understanding grow of the local maritime environment that they live in. This summer has given us a great blueprint moving forward for the development and implementation for our future educational endeavors.

We have secured a tent and table at this year's Mississippi Book Festival in Jackson August 21. I will be operating the tent throughout the day of this great event with author and speaker interviews. Lorren and I thought that attending this event might give us a wider awareness in the state and may even lead to membership

increases away from the coast. If we can build our membership all over Mississippi it will help with our vision as a regional authority on maritime history and culture. The Mississippi Book Festival will be on C-Span the entire day on August 21.

Thank you all for what you give to this museum, and I look forward to sharing more of our growing vision and goals in the future.

Sincerely,

Kyle Williams

Mr. Kyle Williams
Museum Education
Program Specialist

A NOTE FROM DIANE SULLIVAN

I am ecstatic to have joined the team at MS Maritime Museum in Pascagoula, MS. Coming from a background of both the Hospitality industry and Office Management, I feel that I have acquired many skills and experience that will help me to be successful in my role as Assistant to the Executive director.

One exciting project that I have been involved in so far includes directing the relocation of our Museum's historical artifacts to the Science Building in preparation for

the transformation of our warehouse space into an exhibit area that will be open to the public.

Another fun project was assisting with everything involved in the setup for the National Maritime Day event held at the Point in Pascagoula. Preparations included contacting media coverage for the event, food truck vendors, signage, and my favorite part, overseeing the raffle ticket drawing. I've always enjoyed working with the public, hosting events, and meeting new people!

I'm constantly involved in graphic design projects that I enjoy as well to assist Ms. West with membership meetings, grant applications, newsletters, etc. It's a win/win that she gets the assistance she needs, and I get to express my creativity!

I have a strong passion for Hospitality. I feel that this position allows me to cater to that passion by catering to the public. Whether it be involvement in social media, attending special events, or playing a vital role in assisting with whatever it

takes to eventually open this Museum to allow the public to be able to learn about and enjoy our local Maritime heritage. Seeing the growth of a successful business is very rewarding, and I'm very honored to be chosen to be a part of it all. I'm eager to see where this Journey takes me and look forward to meeting all the future museum visitors!

Regards,

Diane Sullivan

Diane Sullivan – Assistant to the Executive Director

A STEAMER FROM HAVANA GOES TO PIECES NEAR THE MISSISSIPPI COAST—NO LIVES LOST!

This was the headline from a New Orleans newspaper on the morning of February 9, 1881. The steamer was the sidewheel merchant ship Josephine. She was sailing from Havana, Cuba, to New Orleans, Louisiana, when she **FOUNDERED** during a severe winter storm. Though all of her 65 passengers and crew survived, the shipwreck may still hold clues to the lives of people who endured this perilous journey.

HISTORY OF THE STEAMSHIP JOSEPHINE

In 1867, New York businessman Charles Morgan contracted the Harlan and Hollingsworth Company of Wilmington, Delaware, to construct the IRON-HULL sidewheel steamer Josephine. Completed in early 1868, the vessel first arrived at New Orleans, Louisiana, on February 29, 1868, having departed from Wilmington on February 6. Along the way, Josephine made stops in Havana, Cuba, and Key West, Florida.

Josephine was designed for use along the U.S. Gulf Coast, and incorporated design features similar to most of the sidewheel steamers that were constructed along the Atlantic Coast during the middle 1800s. The ship had a round STERN, two cabins, two decks, two masts, and could transport up to 250 passengers. While no construction plans have been identified for this vessel, she was registered at 1,282.53 tons, 235 feet long, 34 feet wide, with an 18.5- foot depth of hold.

Though she operated primarily between New Orleans, Louisiana, and Galveston, Texas, Josephine **FOUNDERED** in a storm in 1881 while enroute to New Orleans from Havana, Cuba.



THE SIDEWHEEL STEAMSHIP - JOSEPHINE

Among the passengers on her maiden voyage were the vessel's owner, Charles Morgan, and several members of his family. A newspaper report from that time described the vessel as "... the most beautiful and elegant of any that have entered the port of Havana" (Daily Picayune 1868). The Josephine's arrival in the Crescent City (New Orleans) coincided with the implementation of a regular route between Brashear City (later renamed Morgan City in honor of Charles Morgan), Louisiana, and Galveston, Texas. During her service, from 1868 to 1881, the Josephine made 2-3 trips per week between these ports.

Additional vessels also serviced this route. As with many of the

regularly established routes, the U.S. mail became a standard cargo on these vessels, allowing for regular communication between the New Orleans and Galveston areas. Josephine played a critical role in the development of merchant shipping along the Gulf Coast. As regular routes were established, harbor improvements were made, which contributed to the growth of these areas. As a result, people and businesses began to settle near these locations in order to take advantage of the newly established transportation.

Not long after Josephine began regular service she was almost lost when she ran aground off the Texas coast. After about two weeks the steamer was re-floated,

taken back to New Orleans, and placed in dry dock at the Vallette Dry Dock facility in Algiers, where she was inspected for leaks. Inspection was unable to identify any major damage, and the vessel was soon returned to service.

For the most part, Josephine's service along the Gulf Coast was uneventful. In March 1875, however, the ship played a role in Texas history by serving as a refuge for the citizens of Corpus Christi when Mexican bandits attacked the town. When it was learned that an assault was imminent, residents boarded Josephine and waited it out safely offshore.

Early in 1881, Josephine was transferred to the New Orleans, Louisiana, to Havana, Cuba, route, replacing the steamer Morgan, another vessel built by the Harlan and Hollingsworth Company and operated by Charles Morgan. This was to be Josephine's last voyage. On January 27, Josephine left New Orleans, and arrived in Havana a few days later. On February 2 she departed Havana with several passengers and a cargo of tobacco and cigars. Among the passengers was a family of musicians led by Professor Herman Franko.

According to Professor Franko's account of the FOUNDERING, the steamer began her return trip to New Orleans at 5 p.m. on February 2. She arrived in Key West the following afternoon and departed for Cedar Key that evening, arriving on the morning of Friday the fourth.

At Cedar Key, the Josephine picked up several more passengers. Included among the new passengers were 14 members of an Italian crew that had recently survived the sinking of their lumber ship, originally bound for London from Pensacola.

Josephine left Cedar Key around 4 p.m. Friday, February 4, 1881, en route to New Orleans, and sailed without incident



until sometime Sunday, when one of the crew members noticed that the vessel was leaking. Passengers and crew worked frantically to bail water but could not control the leak, so arrangements were made to abandon the ship. Prior to the captain giving the order, however, the leak began to subside. Yet not long after, the seas picked up and Josephine began to take on water once more.

On Monday evening the captain again had the crew prepare to abandon ship. By 3 a.m. Tuesday morning all had escaped, and the vessel began to heel to one side. Though all of the approximately 65 passengers and crew escaped the sinking, the captain's dog was not so lucky.

A second account, from an unidentified passenger, said Josephine ran into a hurricane sometime Saturday afternoon, which did not let up until Monday. "On Sunday morning it was discovered that the pressure of the water against the side of the ship opened the seams and the water was pouring in at a fearful

rate." This incident was reported as the first serious accident to a Morgan Line vessel in 11 years.

The loss of Josephine was valued at \$75,000. Though it was described as a hurricane by one of the survivors, the time of the FOUNDERING was in early February, well after hurricane season ends on the Gulf Coast. Today the shipwreck lies in about 38 feet of water between Horn Island and Ship Island.

*Pascagoula
River
Country...
Timber for
the navies of
the world*

SUMMER FUN AT THE MAC

Submitted by Patti Brooks, Board of Director member with focus on our educational offerings

The Mississippi Maritime Museum partnered with the Pascagoula Recreation Department this summer to present our Young Mariner Summer Maritime Program.

We hosted four age groups on three days each week from the first week of June until the last week of July. The lessons, crafts, and activities were designed around a variety of maritime themes.

During week one, lessons dealt with using, reading, and interpreting maritime maps concluding with the children creating their own treasure map.

Week two was an extension of week one as the children learned how mariners used the stars to navigate concluding with the children illustrating Ursa Minor (or Little Bear/Little Dipper) and Delphinus.

In week 3, each group designed and tested aluminum foil boats to see how much weight each could support. They tested boats of various sizes and shapes while learning about buoyancy and the center point of gravity.

During week 4, we welcomed a guest, Becky Hardgrove from the USM Marine Education Center to explain "What makes a fish a fish?"

We taught cast net-throwing and the children also made fish prints using real fish and ink while learning about an ancient Japanese method called gyotaku.

In week 5, we continued learning about marine animals and made puppets of various marine animals concluding with a camper developed puppet show.

Week 6 welcomed scout leader, Mrs. Margaret; two Eagle Scouts, Cayden and Collin; and two Life Scouts, Owen and Preston. They worked with the children demonstrating how to tie nautical knots. We wrapped up our fun summer time fun with additional activities on marine life and visits from the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard brought along their 29 foot boat to teach boating safety!

As time allowed, the children worked on incorporating problem solving, communication, and science skills. This has been an exciting and educational partnership to bring children into the Activity Center.



Ursa Minor



Marine Animals Puppet Show



Tin Foil Boat



Gyotaku Paintings

SUMMER FUN AT THE MAC



MORE SUMMER CAMP FUN!!



OUR ACTIVITY CENTER WAS USED IN A NEWS CHANNEL WXXV 25 PROMOTION!



MARITIME SHIPWRECK IN NORTHWEST, MISSISSIPPI



Photo: uscg

GEORGE KING – Vicksburg, MS
January 27, 2018 Paul Hancock

On January 24, 2018 the 42 meter long towboat George King caught fire on the Mississippi River near Vicksburg, Mississippi. The fire started in the vessel's engine room and quickly engulfed the superstructure. The nine crew on board were able escape the flames

by climbing onto the barges being pushed by the George King. The 168 foot long towboat Michael Reeves came to their assistance and pushed the George King ashore onto the river bank. No reports of injuries.

The Coast Guard along with other local and state authorities arrived on scene a short time later. River traffic was restricted while

authorities extinguished the blaze. A boom and absorbent pads were placed around the George King to contain any pollution. Reports state there was 65,000 gallons of diesel fuel on board the George King.

The fire had gutted most the towboat's superstructure. The state of Mississippi has a tremendous maritime history state-wide.

DID YOU KNOW?

Our most prized possession

"THE WAREHOUSE SAILBOAT"

will be towed to the United States Coast Guard facility on Singing River Island! The Coast Guard officers will be refurbishing her to former glory!

The Activity Center wants to use her former elegance as a major tool for our educational classes and play area.



**We acquired a
River Boat Ships' wheel!**



Photo: uscg

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Thank you for your consideration of dedicating your maritime spirit to the creation of our maritime museum and community outreach visions. We welcome all individuals from ages of 16 and up!

We offer many rewarding opportunities in our various departments. Whether assisting our executive director with exhibit creation, working to acquire phenomenal maritime artifacts, or providing information to the public, you would be a valued member of our Mississippi Maritime team!

ARTIFACTS ACQUISITION / ARCHIVES: Help seek out maritime artifacts. Document artifacts as necessary.

BUILDING, IT, & FACILITIES: Assist with coordination of all building construction, renovations, IT framework & troubleshooting. Work with engineers, architects, and exhibit technicians.

BUSINESS PLANNING: Develop and maintain plans for existing and future museum facilities: develop the business and strategic plans; maintain the plans via annual reviews.

COMMUNITY LIAISON – RECRUITMENT/DEVELOPMENT: Identify and recruit maritime-dedicated, passionate individuals to partner with our executive director.

EDUCATION: Be a part of our teaching team! Boat builders, net throwers, fishing, scuba divers and so much more. We desire great people to teach our upcoming maritime programming. Do you love to show-off your expertise? Teach and partner with our educational staff to develop maritime educational presentations, use creative educational input to help our museum SHINE!

EXHIBITS: If you enjoy creativity, art, maritime underwater archeology, shipbuilding, genealogical history, and all things maritime.....be a part of our exhibit design vision, implementation, and public collections

FINANCIAL PLANNING/MANAGEMENT: Help plan and manage finances; report finances to the Board of Directors; develop annual budgets; ensure required filings are complete.

FUND RAISING/CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: Assist with planning and management of finances, annual budget development, ensure required filings are completed, initiate new funding opportunities and bank partnerships.

GRANT IDENTIFICATION AND PROPOSALS: Partner with Executive Director in establishing new grant partnerships and aid in drafting subsections of proposals. This is a fantastic opportunity if you enjoy research and the discovery of new maritime visions. Events: Assist with planning and management of museum social events and participation in public events.

LEGISLATIVE: Interact with Mississippi and U.S. Legislators on behalf of the museum. Assist with coordination of lobby activities.

MEMBERSHIP/DONOR RECOGNITION: Establish and appreciation for and recognize value of new and current members. Enhance communication with all members through email, phone calls, and events.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Interact with the public via various media outlets. Aid in the creation of marketing materials, maritime articles, website post updates and other social media. Enjoy partnering with Executive Director with the publication of four MMM Newsletters on a quarterly schedule.

Please email msmmuseum@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering!



*Thank you to everyone that came out and enjoyed our
National Maritime Day Celebration!!*

**THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING
FOR YOUR MARITIME PARTNERSHIPS**

NOAA

PASCAGOULA BAR PILOTS ASSOCIATION

PASCAGOULA POLICE DEPARTMENT

PASCAGOULA'S CASA

JUNIOR AUXILLARY CLUB

SIGNET TUGBOATS

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD





P.O. Box 243
PASCAGOULA, MS 39568

Pascagoula's Own
Mississippi Maritime Museum
& Activity Center
Official Newsletter

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Email us at msmmuseum@gmail.com with your info.

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