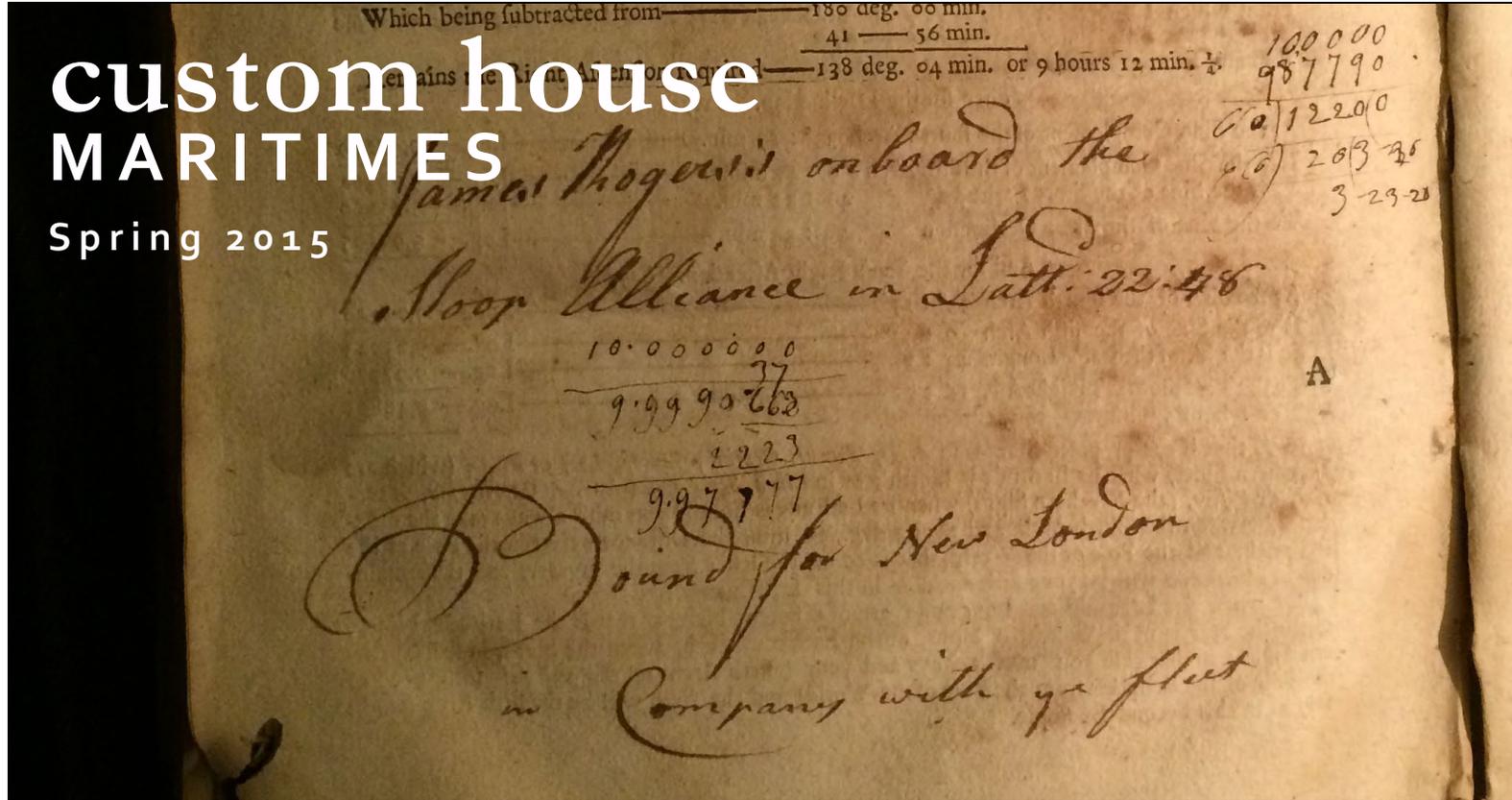


custom house MARITIMES

Spring 2015



Above: *The Whole Art of Geography*, 1701. It's new to the NLMS Frank McGuire Maritime Research Library. Learn more about it in Brian Roger's article (page 3).



Two new shows open in May at the Custom House: an exhibition on 226 years of US Customs, and family-friendly *Kids Ahoy*.

National Geographic, the *Amistad*, & it's only April! This place is truly fortunate.

Take our location, for one thing, in a city with a wealth of maritime connections. Then consider our coordinates: NLMS sits within one block of the New London waterfront (leading out to Long Island Sound) and all that implies: ferries, oyster farms, islands, submarines, fishing boats, visiting ships, Captain Scott's, not to mention the ability for us to run five months of boat tours. We are three blocks from the Amtrak rail station, in the epicenter of Lighthouse country. And we own three of the most-marvelous lighthouses to be found, anywhere: New London Harbor Light (1801), Race Rock Lightstation (1878), and—as of June 2015—New London Ledge Lighthouse (1909), not to mention the 1833 Custom House.

But there is more this spring; we have new programs we couldn't have imagined six months ago. Through a series of circumstances, the freedom schooner *Amistad* will be docked at New London's Custom House Pier from May 1 through October 2015. New London Maritime Society will provide the educational component for the ship, while it is here. At the Custom House Maritime Museum, we already teach the *Amistad* story every day, *without* the ship. But having it here, visible from our windows, and being able to partner with other freedom-story groups across the state and provide programs for school visits will be a rare opportunity for us. Because we want to do the best possible job, we recently called upon the world's leading *Amistad* scholar, Professor Marcus Rediker, to help with our curriculum; he immediately agreed. Prof. Rediker will be in New London on May 5 to be part of an *Amistad* teachers' discussion, hosted by the Custom House, after which he will present his new film, *Ghosts of Amistad*. The film event will be held May 5, at 7 PM, at Public Library of New London, our co-sponsor for a Summer Freedom Film Series. The film is free and open to the public.

When New Londoners heard the *Amistad* was going to be here, they immediately wanted to plan a Welcome. The date is now set: Friday, May 1 at 12:30 PM, at the Custom House pier. We hope you'll be there to show your support. There will be singing, drumming and very little speechifying.

You never know who is on the phone. Last June, New London Maritime Society was called by National Geographic. A producer wanted to film part of a reality series out at Race Rock. 'You really should go to Ledge', I told them, as access to Race is so difficult. 'You forget, we're National Geographic,' he scoffed. 'We go anywhere.' And so they did. The program, *The Watch*, filmed Brooks Kuhn as she made repairs at the lighthouse. On National Geographic TV Thursdays in April, at 10 PM. -Susan Tamulevich, director

New London Maritime Society - Custom House Maritime Museum, 150 Bank Street, New London, Connecticut 06320.

from the President, New London Maritime Society

Several times during these six years of my Presidency at NLMS / Custom House Maritime Museum, I have drafted letters requesting donations to our organization and for the benefit of our citizens. Each year the mission we have embraced had expanded. Now we are the owners of the three major regional lighthouses: New London Harbor Lighthouse, Race Rock, and Ledge Lighthouse. This fact clearly reflects the confidence of the Federal Government in our stewardship and in our capacity for handling responsibility. Our Mission, by choice, and regarding the lighthouses by Federal direction, is to keep the lighthouses open to visitation and education for the public.

This year we request your consideration regarding underwriting a specific and large personal effort that would be directly and gratefully attributed to you in perpetuity. A number of these opportunities are listed below. Of these, the one which would have the most immediate and lasting impact would be to endow the position of Museum Director. In addition, all of these options have been carefully chosen to multiply the efforts of a highly effective Director and of a very committed Board of Trustees.

We realize the scope of what we are requesting. We also realize the value of such a donation to the organization, to the public, and to you as a legacy.

--George A. Sprecace., president

SUGGESTIONS FOR LARGE DONATIONS

- 1) ENDOWMENT FOR DIRECTOR'S 'CHAIR' \$2,000,000.
- 2) RACE ROCK LIGHTSTATION DOCK \$1,000,000
- 3) A NEW ROOF FOR THE MUSEUM (RESTORED TO ORIGINAL ROBERT MILLS PLAN WITH FOUR CHIMNEYS AND DECK) \$300,000
- 4) HANDICAP ENTRANCE FOR MUSEUM \$225,000
- 5) DOCK - NEW LONDON HARBOR LIGHTHOUSE \$200,000.
- 7) STONE LEDGE REPAIR & STEPS AT HARBOR LIGHT \$35,000
- 8) LANDSCAPING AT HARBOR LIGHT \$ 15,000



Thanks Bob! This spring artist Bob Landry, above with wife Jackie, donated a second large-scale lighthouse model, New London Ledge Light, to the Custom House Maritime Museum. In 2013 we received Race Light Light Station.

Join us for a rousing evening of traditional maritime songs Wednesday, May 13 at 7 PM

Bob Walser - Songs of Sea and Shore
at the Custom House

One of the world's leading experts on traditional music of the sea, Bob Walser, presents a concert of shanties and sailors' songs, pub songs, ballads, and songs with great choruses that invite everyone to participate: *Songs of Sea and Shore*, on Wednesday, May 13 at 7 PM, at the Custom House Maritime Museum.

Tickets are \$25, \$20 for NLMaritime Society members, and \$15 for children ages 14 and younger. In addition to the concert, wine, coffee and desserts will be served. Purchase tickets at 1-800-838-3006, or online 24/7 at brownpapertickets.com/event/1414023



Find out first! Sign up for weekly e-mail blasts - write to: nlmaritime@gmail.com

from the Frank L. McGuire Library

The Whole Art of Navigation: A Rare Book Comes Home to New London

Thanks to the presence of the New London Maritime Society on the Internet, we are now the proud owners of a rare book with unique New London connections. A former owner of Daniel Newhouse's *The Whole Art of Navigation* (London, 1701), was Capt. James Rogers (1704 - ca.1754), great-grandson of early New London settler James Rogers. A bookseller in Minneapolis found our website, noticed that the Museum had a library, and thought (correctly) that we might be interested. Capt. Rogers's large, graceful signature fills part of a blank page, and it appears that he took the book along on voyages: one marginal inscription reads "James Rogers on board the sloop Alliance in Latt:22:48 Bound for New London" (see cover). Another occurrence of the name is in a different hand, perhaps that of his son James (1733-1803), also a mariner. The younger James later moved to Lempster, New Hampshire, which would explain how the book happened to be bought by Truman Abell of Lempster, a physician famous for *Abell's Old Farmer's Almanac*, who duly noted his purchase on one of its pages.

The Whole Art of Navigation, first published in 1685, is a reflection of that science as it was understood before the revolutionary advances made in the 18th century, among them John Hadley's invention of the octant (precursor to the sextant) in 1731, and John Harrison's lifelong search for a way to determine longitude at sea, achieved in 1773 with the first reliable marine chronometer. Even without the future inventions of Hadley and Harrison, Daniel Newhouse was confident enough of his material to append this lengthy subtitle: '...In Five Books Containing the Principles of NAVIGATION, GEOMETRY and ASTRONOMY. The Practical Part of Navigation, and the Explanation of Sea-Terms. The Description and Use of Such Instruments as are Useful in Taking Observations at Sea. The Use of a Large Sinical Quadrant, Performing with Exactness, all Questions Relating to Navigation; Render'd Easy to the Meanest Capacity....etc.'

Newhouse's book is a treasured and tangible link between New London's maritime past and present, and we are privileged to

become its custodians. How it made its way to Minneapolis we will never know, but we are thankful that the ability for strangers with a common interest to communicate on the Internet enabled its return to New London more than two centuries after it left for New Hampshire among James Rogers's goods and chattels - and more than three centuries after it emerged from the printing house of Richard Mount on London's Tower Hill, a place known more for beheadings than for publishing: Thomas Cromwell, the subject of Hilary Mantel's engrossing novel *Wolf Hall* was among the prominent political prisoners to be executed there.

--Brian Rogers, Librarian



Jin Hi Kim's **Cross-Cultural Music Meditation Workshop** takes place over five consecutive days, Monday through Friday, May 4-8, with two different sessions: at 10 and 11 AM. It's \$50 for the five, 45-minute sessions. www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1434181 or call 860-447-2501.

A bi-cultural exposure to the basic aesthetics and concepts of Asian philosophy, music, and instruments, over five sessions, participants gain first-hand experience of the role music plays in meditation and the benefits it offers to develop a calm, focused group experience. Even if you must miss a session, be certain to be there on Friday, when Ms Kim plays the kumungo and the meditation work of the week comes to fruition in a group performance. *The workshop is made possible with support from the Department of Economic and Community Development, Connecticut Office of the Arts which also receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.*

I'M JOINING THE NEW LONDON MARITIME SOCIETY!

Name _____ phone _____ e-mail _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Individual \$35___ Family \$50___ Contributor \$100___ Sponsor \$250___ Patron \$1,500___ (This entitles you to Life Membership)

Cash___ Check___ ~ please make payment to New London Maritime Society Visa___ Master Card___ AmEx___

Number _____ Exp. date _____ Security code _____

I want to support the **Ben Martin LIGHTHOUSE FUND** ___ Please accept this donation of \$ _____

Benefits of membership include *free* admission, invitations to special events, discounts, and a newsletter.

150 Bank Street, New London, Connecticut 06320, 860-447-2501



2015 School Visits to the Amistad

Bring your students to New London to learn the story of the brave Amistad Africans, with visits to both the ship on Waterfront Park, and the exhibition *Amistad: A True Story of Freedom*, at the Custom House Maritime Museum.

Amistad visits for school, homeschool, and summer camp groups may be scheduled for when the ship is docked in New London, May through October 2015. Please call Susan Tamulevich at 860-447-8700 or email nlmaritimedirector@gmail.com to arrange your visit.

- ~ May-June, school groups may arrange visits on Tuesday & Thursday mornings between 9 AM and 1 PM.
- ~ July-August, Homeschoolers and camp groups may arrange visits on Thursdays between 9 AM & 1 PM.
- ~ September-October, school groups may arrange visits on Tuesday & Thursday mornings between 9 AM and 1 PM.

A basic visit to both the Amistad ship and the Amistad exhibition, which is located just two blocks away at the Custom House, is \$6 per student and takes about two hours. Students are welcome to bring their lunch and eat either at the museum or on the New London waterfront.



While in New London, why not extend your visit with additional educational programs.

- Students also have the opportunity to create their own wooden Amistad ship model while at the museum -- the program fee is \$15 per student and takes about 2 1/2 hours. (To reduce costs, we are looking for sponsors to provide the ship kits @ \$9) nlmaritimesociety.com
- At the Custom House Maritime Museum, students also may learn about local maritime history, deep-sea diving, and lighthouses. Each unit adds 45 minutes to the visit, for the same program fee of \$6 per student.

Other activities in New London may be combined with the visit.



- The Hempsted Houses, also within walking distance, offers a 45-minute program on slavery and abolition. The site was the home to two enslaved people during colonial times, and in the decades before the Civil War was a center for abolition activity in New London. Students learn about the lives of enslaved people and New Londoners' attitudes toward slavery. The per student program fee for the Hempsted Houses visit combined with the Amistad ship and Custom House is \$9. Students are welcome to have lunch on the lawn at Hempsted or indoors in inclement weather. ctlandmarks.org/content/hempsted-houses

On July 2, 1839, 53 enslaved Africans defeated their captors and took over *La Amistad*. The ship was brought in to New London, in late August. The Africans fought their case for freedom to the Supreme Court. In 1842, they returned home to Sierra Leone.

below: Prof. Marcus Rediker in Sierra Leone filming *Ghosts of Amistad*.



from the President, New London Ledge Light Foundation

The Ledge Light Foundation is gearing up for a busy season at the lighthouse. Our first inspection after the long winter was reassuring. The work we did last year paid off during the assault of bad weather. We found no leaks, no damage, no obvious problems. This is a welcome change from the past five years, when we found the exterior stairway damaged, puddles inside, and other problems. This means we can pick up where we left off last fall and move forward with our ongoing restoration work. We'd like to thank MAZZELLA CARPET, of Groton, for their generous donation of carpeting for three rooms at Ledge Lighthouse. It will really help dress the place up!

The Foundation is working on new exhibits, including some historical treasures, videos, a refresh of the orientation film, a major update of the theater, installation of a collection of miniature lighthouse models, and more. We will be adding two more benches to the exterior, so now the entire base of the building will be ringed with benches (6 in all) where visitors can sit and enjoy the best views in town.

Todd Gipstein, Foundation president, will launch his latest novel, *In the Shadow of the Light*, a ghost-story / psychological thriller about Ledge Light, paranormal investigators, a writer, and, of course, the resident ghost 'Ernie.' This thriller is sure to appeal to lighthouse enthusiasts and fans of spooky tales. The book takes place in many local places besides Ledge Light, including Avery Point, the von Schlippe Gallery, Custom House, Par 4 Restaurant, Danielle's Barber Shop and the Lyman Allyn Museum. The Ledge Light Foundation, Custom House, and area libraries will all host book talks and signings over the spring and summer.

In June, the deed to the lighthouse, now owned by the New London Maritime Society, will officially be presented by the GSA / National Park Service. We hope the Secretary of the Interior will attend this important event — the beginning of a new chapter in the long and colorful history of Ledge Light Station. Ledge Light will join the Pequot Light and Race Rock in the NLMS's maritime holdings, and unite all three lights that guide mariners into New London harbor under a single ownership. The Foundation will be working with the NLMS on its many lighthouse events, and hopes to put on a Gala in August.

Summer brings the opportunity to visit Ledge Light in person. As we start the new season of tours to Ledge Light, NLMS and LLF would like to thank Project O for all the years they have worked at the light and helped people visit and enjoy this local maritime treasure. Project Oceanology will again be helping us get folks out to the lighthouse with tours from Avery Point in Groton on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and, as part of the *Sentinels on the Sound* weekends, from downtown New London on Sundays. We're also exploring other ways to visit Ledge Light on tours, in small groups, or even special private tours.

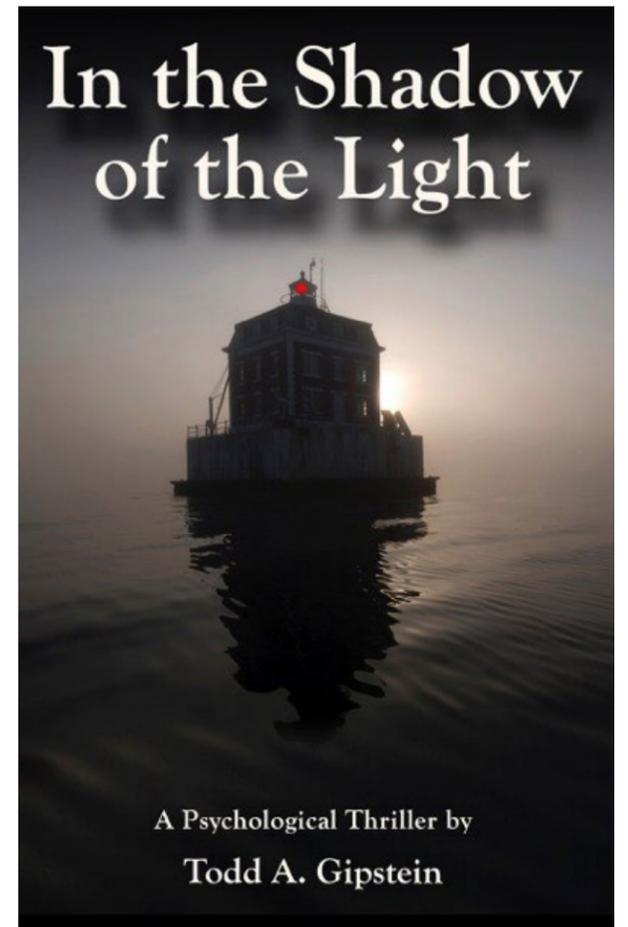
Much more is planned too. So visit www.LedgeLighthouse.com to find out about tours, events, volunteering opportunities, and more. Follow us on www.facebook.com/NewLondonLedgeLighthouse.

Ernie hopes to see you out at his home this summer. Even if you've been, come back, as there is more to see every year!

((o))



Visit the Custom House MUSEUM SHOP for terrific gifts—including all of Todd's books and Marcus Rediker's *Amistad Rebellion*, sailing ship kites, nautical clocks, toy submarines, rubber stamps, fluffy duckies, maritime books, and sea creature ornaments. We have Lighthouse Keepers caps, balloon-powered toy boats, whales of every sort, oyster linens. New London Maritime Society members receive 10% off their purchase. We're open Tuesday—Sunday, from 1 to 5 PM. 'Custom House Museum Shop' is on facebook.



JIBBOOM CLUB #1

Tuesday, April 21, 1 to 4 PM.

Steve Jackson, a former Submariner, will talk about *The most dangerous job in World War II*.

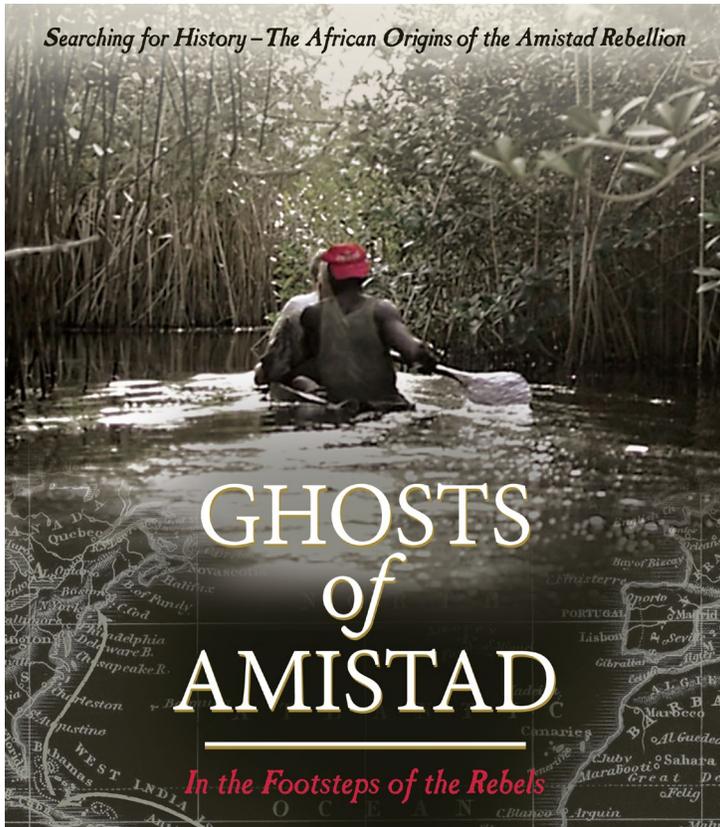
Join Russ & Rob for coffee & good conversation.

Jibboom Club meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Next meeting is May 19. All are welcome.

Donations are for refreshments, only.

Searching for History – The African Origins of the Amistad Rebellion



GHOSTS of AMISTAD

In the Footsteps of the Rebels

New London Welcomes AMISTAD Friday May 1, at 12:30 PM - Join us!

New London will host the *Amistad* at Custom House Pier from May through October 2015.

Come down to Waterfront Park on Friday May 1, at 12:30 PM, & join Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School and 'guest artists' from New London High School to welcome the ship and her crew to town!

GHOSTS of AMISTAD film

Tuesday May 5, at 7:00 PM, FREE

at Public Library of New London, Community Room
with Marcus Rediker and Lonnie Braxton

This documentary by Tony Buba is based on Marcus Rediker's *The Amistad Rebellion: An Atlantic Odyssey of Slavery and Freedom* (Viking-Penguin, 2012). It chronicles a trip to Sierra Leone in 2013 to visit the home villages of the people who seized the slave schooner *Amistad* in 1839, to interview elders about local memory of the case, and to search for the long-lost ruins of Lomboko, the slave trading factory where their cruel transatlantic voyage began. Co-sponsored by Public Library of New London with New London Maritime Society. The film runs 59 minutes, and will be followed by a discussion.

THE WATCH – Thursdays in April at 10 PM
We want to thank the National Geographic Channel, Patrick Kennedy, Geordie Loveday, Bill Reed, and especially Brooks Kuhn, *right*, for being so resourceful and good-humored in the making of this reality TV show. It certainly made for an exciting summer!



New London Maritime Society
Custom House Maritime Museum
150 Bank Street
New London, Connecticut 06320

www.nlmaritimesociety.org

Summer is coming.

Watch the website for the latest updates.

