

The War We Commemorate - II New Nation, With 3 Naval Services

By Geoffrey M. Footner

Fell's Point Maritime History Consortium

The Constitution's Article One gives Congress the power to collect duties and provide for the nation's defense. Enforcement of the collection of import duties was assigned to the Treasury Department. Secretary Alexander Hamilton purchased the first revenue cutters, Active, built in Fell's Point, and Liberty, in Hampton Roads, for the Revenue Service's naval squadron in 1791. Revenue Service cutters formed a coastal defense force when the War of 1812 was declared.

The second oldest American naval service is the U.S. Navy. Its Department of the Navy was created in 1798 with the commissioning of USF Constellation, built on Harris Creek in Canton, by Fell's Pointers, and other frigates commissioned that same year. By 1812, the Navy had participated in two undeclared wars, the Quasi War with France and the Barbary War with Tripoli. The fleet was small but feisty.

Section 8 of Article One grants to Congress "the power to declare war, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and to make rules concerning captures on water [and land]." America's first letters of marque were granted during Federalist John Adams' term as president at the time of the Quasi War and were controversial, as America had never declared war.

The situation prior to President James Madison's declaration of war in June 1812, described in my first article, was quite different. The authority to administer the affairs of the nation's citizen-owned cruisers and blockade-runners was assigned to the Department of State. Congress delegated to Madison's administration the power to promulgate supplemental rules. Moreover, the *(Continued)*



Photos by Lew Diuguid

Greenpeace's flagship Rainbow Warrior, completed in Europe last October, crossed from Spain to New York City in 17 days under sail and docked next in Fell's Point last month. With a crew of 16, "15 nationalities," powered rigging and a cost of \$29 million in contributions, her cargo is conservation. Next stop, Brazil. More at greenpeace.org/

BRICK BANTER

Spring Comes to Marketplace



Marketplace Picks Up Pace

By local developer Dave Holmes' account, plans for his Marketplace project to resurrect Broadway below Fleet St. remain in place and the means of completing it are now at hand, with work to resume in April. The new factor is that he has sold development rights along the 600 block of Broadway to Dobbin Co. Inc. of Massachusetts, with an office in Odenton. It hopes to begin next month restoring storefronts and the apartments above them, plus building new apartments above two levels of parking, one below grade, behind the west side of Broadway. Parking behind the east storefronts and apartments is to be surface. In all, there are to be 21 storefronts, 101 one- and two-bedroom apartments on the west side and 58 apartments on the east. Completion: 20 months.

Holmes said that after Dobbin's work is well underway, his own restoration of the north market, hallmark of the now six-year-old project, will begin. It will restore the second floor and cupola destroyed in a fire decades ago. It is expected to include a major restaurant as well as food purveyors. "I am excited about the completed renovation of the south shed," he said. The stall keepers who hung on through the city market's long deterioration and closure now occupy preferred sites there and are doing more business. Shoppers at Sofia's Deli and Sal's Seafood, at the north end of the shed, are finding that customers come for lunch, too. "You want people to stay in there longer," he added. He is particularly proud of having added ample restrooms--the only public ones available since the Comfort Station on Fleet St. closed a decade ago. He said neighbors have told him that public urination has fallen off notably.

Holmes' South Broadway Properties bought the city Comfort Station in December with the understanding that it will be renovated, and the second floor rented at a nominal fee to Main Street for its offices. The first floor is to be a lounge for residents of Dobbin's apartments. The estimated total cost of Marketplace is now \$40 million, compared to \$60 million six years ago. The drop came with abandonment in 2008 of a much contested multi-story parking/office building on the west side. Holmes and his project partner, Dan Winner, were heavily affected by the recession. Winner remains a partner but inactive.

Describing wide interest of clients for Marketplace, Holmes acknowledged that no drug store chain is among them. He hoped for a small one, on the scale of the storefronts. But operators want to build big and have done so nearby.

Happenings

Open House at New Century

The New Century School 724 S. Ann St., will hold an open house Saturday, March 24, 10AM-noon. Attendees can tour the former Mother Seton building and outdoor areas, meet members of the school community, and gather information on enrollment in the Montessori-style school, now in its second year. The open house will also highlight summer programs for students ages 2 through the fifth-grade level. To sign up for the open house, send an email to enrollment.newcentury@gmail.com. For more details, call 410.929.4116.

Major Bond St. Wharf Tenant

Algeco Scotsman Group, an international supplier of mobile offices, trailers and classrooms, has moved its corporate office and U.S. operating company, Williams Scotsman, to Fell's Point from White Marsh, The Business Journal reported on Feb. 13. About 200 employees will move into 30,000 sq. ft. at the Bond Street Wharf building. This "will help us continue to attract talented people who want to live and work in a vibrant, affordable city," Algeco Scotsman CEO Duncan Gillis said. "As a global organization, we often host international visitors and therefore the relocation provides us with easier access to the expected amenities." The company manages more than 300,000 office, school, health care and storage units in several countries. The Journal said only 14,000 of the Wharf's 227,000 sq. ft. are still vacant.

Easter Sunrise on Broadway

The Rev. and Town Crier Jack Trautwein will lead his Easter Sunday Sunrise Service on April 8 at 6:15 AM on Broadway Pier. For more information, 410.746.7494.

Vagabond's 'California Suite'

"California Suite" by Neil Simon, directed by John W. Ford, runs at the Vagabond Theater on the Square through March 25, 8PM Friday-Saturday, 2PM Sunday. For reservations, vagabondplayers.org or 410.563.9135, \$10-16.

Nursing Care, w/WaterVu

Overlooking Boston St. and the Korean War Memorial Park is Canton Harbor FutureCare, a nursing home with 160 beds that looks like a fancy motel and has several ties to Fell's Point. It is one of 13 such centers in this area, headquartered in Pasadena and owned by the Attman family, which came to prominence three generations ago selling corned beef on Lombard St.'s Deli Row. FutureCare placed first among large companies in The Sun's survey of the city's top 75 workplaces last year. It began in 1986 and now has 2,000 employees. Many gave The Sun enthusiastic endorsements.

About 60 percent of the patients on Boston St. are from the Canton-'Point area, according to the administrator, Luis Navas-Miguelo, who lives on S. Ann St. and reads The Fell's Pointer. So do several patients, and this newsletter is assisting the center in having it available through the facility's own lively newsletter. Among numerous institutions making rehabilitative referrals to FutureCare are Hopkins Hospital and Lemko House retirement community on Ann St. The average stay of short-term patients is under 30 days and the number of long-term patients is about 120, said Navas.

Last summer, FutureCare and Cara Joyce of Urban Pirates arranged two excursions for patients

What Was the Question, Mark?--Coda!

Doffing White Lie and Tales

As hard as it is for me to believe, this story marks my 66th article for The Fell's Pointer. Almost consecutive. Has it really been almost seven years since I started spinning yarns and digging up obscure bits of Fell's Point history? Apparently! [Editor's note: Absolutely--the part-time magician's response to my pleas for reader participation is unique in our 14 years of chasing deadlines.]

They say that all good things must come to an end, and so it is for me with the 'Pointer. It has been fascinating. Over the years I've met so many people here worthy of that word, and learned so much about this great neighborhood. However, unlike the last time or two in which my stories stopped for several months and then returned, "This is the end my friends," a nod to the late Jim Morrison of the Doors.

I do intend to submit ideas for stories, in the way my persistent editor asked of me and others from the start--but now for others to write. There's been talk about repackaging some of my tales in a book. And even if this doesn't happen, I've been tinkering with a novel or maybe a screenplay about Fell's Point and the Great Road Fight.

Before I sneak out the back door, though, I'll share a couple quick stories that Tony Norris, owner of Bertha's, recently sent my way. These types of events exemplify the uniqueness of this waterfront community, a place I've called my second home for well over 30 years:

A man named Ed used to walk around with a pocketful of white plastic forks that he picked up at Jimmy's and other eateries. No friend of dog owners, as he walked the side streets he stuck forks in the piles of excrement around the neighborhood. On one occasion, then-mayor Wm. Donald Schaefer turned the corner, saw all these fork post-



Mark Walker

ings along Lancaster St. and declared this "the most disgusting thing I ever saw." Thus did Ed earn his nickname "Edweirdo."

Speaking of Schaefer, after the famed road battle he was invited to a ceremony held in the Square. To officially mark the end of the



It all started with corned beef on rye.

aboard the good ship Fearless. Normally it boards on Ann Street Wharf but for those trips it docked at the Water Taxi stop in the Korean Park. With Officer Larry Fasano holding back traffic on Boston St., a caravan of patients wheel-chaired to the dock.

To celebrate FutureCare's 25th anniversary last year, the gym was expanded and the building renovated. It was decorated with 32 paintings by Robert McClintock of Thames St. in time for a party that included commemorative bottles of wine with a FutureCare label. Marketing Director Jillian Markum reports the home will be offering a farmers' market this summer. The phone there is 410.342.6644, the actual address 1300 S. Ellwood Ave. and the website is futurecarehealth.com.

Naval Services - cont. from front

commissions awarded over the name of Secretary of State James Monroe during the War of 1812 are defined by specific acts passed by Congress throughout this war as conditions of combat changed. Most of these additional rules were added after American privateers took the war at sea into the channels and seas surrounding Great Britain in 1813 and 1814.

What made these letters of marque different were the tight controls that Madison and Monroe demanded and Congress agreed to: acts that created detailed rules of combat. A commander of an American privately owned cruiser was bound by a bond of \$5,000 to \$10,000 to these rules, which required him to provision and otherwise care for the welfare of his prisoners and keep a journal covering his engagements.

A possible reason for such humane rules--which required privateer commanders to transfer British mariners out of captured merchant vessels and release them to paroled British vessels or deliver them to an American port for a bounty--were lingering memories of the indescribably uncivilized conditions that American mariners experienced in Royal Navy prison hulks in New York harbor during the War of Independence, which resulted in the death of thousands of patriots.

Your editor of The Fell's Pointer knows of that story through a classmate at VMI, from Tangier Island, whose mariner ancestor escaped from one of those Royal Navy hulks and walked from New York harbor in the dead of winter, crossing Chesapeake Bay on ice, shoeless, to reach Tangier. His story has been passed along orally through generations in island tradition. Reports of similarly grim treatment by the Royal Navy doubtless emerged shortly after Great Britain's second American War opened in June 1812.

NEXT: Role of naval services.

Great Road Fight, Charlie Duff of the Preservation Society presented the mayor with a package. As Schaefer, a propagator of the Interstate interchange scheme, peeled away the tissue paper he discovered a hatchet, suitable for burying, a symbolic peace offering between Baltimore City and Fell's Point.

[It is not as though Mark will be off the streets--he is still working for Hopkins at Bond St. Wharf, volunteering for the Preservation Society and reminiscing in saloons permitting that pastime. Lew Diuguid]

Come to the Masquerade

The Corner Theater, 251 S. Ann St. The Residents' Association Harbor Ball is wearing masks, on Saturday, March 24, 7 to 11 at the Polish Home Club, 512 S. Broadway. Tickets are \$75 at One-Eyed Mike's, Long & Foster on Broadway, the Visitor Center or www.harborball.org. Beneficiaries are Preservation Society and Thames St. Park.

'... Transformation' at Corner

The Corner Theater, 251 S. Ann St., offers "Circle Mirror Transformation", a comedy by Annie Baker and directed by Patrick Martyn, through April 8. Fri-Sat at 8, \$17, Sun at 2, \$15. Lobby art by Erin Erb. Reserve through FPCT.org.

Schedules

Trash and Recycling

Current days for trash pickup are Tuesdays and for recycling are Thursdays. Residents are limited to setting out three 32-gallon cans of waste between 6PM on Mondays and 6AM on Tuesdays.

Neighborhood Meetings

Douglass Place: Third Tuesday of each month at Bertha's, dlh411@gmail.com.

Antique Dealers' Association: Call 410.675.4776.

Community Organization: Second Tuesdays at 606 South Ann St., 443.791.1717.

Main Street: office, 1730 Bank St. 410.675.8900.

Preservation Society: 410.675.6750 ext.16 or preservationociety.com.

Residents' Association: First Wednesdays, 7PM, Bertha's.

thanks!

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Editor Lew Diuguid

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