



Bev Bevilacqua, copyright

## MAINE'S FIRST SHIP NEWSLETTER

Reconstructing *Virginia*  
Thank You For Your Generous Support!  
mfship.org

*SPECIAL EDITION  
SUMMER PROGRAMS*

*APRIL 2013*



***Virginia* volunteers from the left: Maine's First Ship President Orman Hines, Mark Aukeman, Roger Barry, Dick Forest, Tim Teague, Jay Coffey, Master Shipwright Rob Stevens, Cyndy Carney**

On Wednesday, April 10, 2013, we raised the last full frame to *Virginia's* keel. Raising these full frames requires the strength and cooperation of many. It serves to symbolize the attitude and atmosphere of teamwork raising *Virginia* has created among volunteers and likely the first builders too. Are we walking in 400 year old footsteps? Did Digby, the 1607 Popham colony shipwright, use this same technique to raise the first *Virginia*, Maine's First Ship? No one knows for sure, but this was the final show of this particular brute 17<sup>th</sup> century shipbuilding technique for our ***Virginia***.

If you missed it, don't worry though, there is still plenty heroic heavy lifting yet to come. Framing and work required to prepare for planking will continue through 2013, with volunteers working Saturdays and Wednesdays from 9AM to 3PM.





## Maine's First Ship achieves major construction milestone.

The 2013 Winter season *Virginia* construction activities realized a major goal mid-March with the raising of the sternpost. Mounted at the aft end of *Virginia's* keel, at a sexy 18 degree rake, this 12 foot 9'x9' white oak timber is pierced by the propeller shaft and backed with deadwood structural timbers and will be capped with the transom later this year. This combination of heavy timbers provides the strength to weather heavy following seas. Setting the sternpost further defines *Virginia's* hull form and gives a full "stem to stern" prospective most often described as "awesome" by visitors.

Above: All eyes on Rob, volunteers watch for hand signals while raising the stern post. Ground level from left, Steve Theodore, Aaron Parks, Tim Teague, Photographer Paul Cunningham, Mark Aukeman and Dan Wood. Roger Barry and Rob Stevens work atop the staging. At right, dry fitting the stern post Maine's First Ship vice President Jeremy Blaiklock works the chain fall, Tim Teague checks for fit on the opposite side while Rob guides the fitting of *Virginia's* stern post. In the long view forward through the frames, Bruce Brennen scales the stem.



At Left: Dan Wood assisted by Roger Barry gets his back into seating the sternpost tenons into the keel mortises (below), while Rob and Jay discuss the angle of fit.

With the raising of the sternpost and structural deadwood, bolting these major timbers can begin. Work will continue to set the remaining forward and aft split frames. Fairing work also continues on the frames to prepare to set the keelsons and planking. See related article on "Horning", a frame fairing method, in this newsletter.





## Horning *Virginia's* Frames – Tim Teague



Tim and Jeremy adjusting frame position

Now that all of the full frames are up, they need to be bumped, nudged and pried into their exact position, the position that they will retain as a ship. This process in shipwright terms is called "horning".

Each frame in turn is freed from the ribbands, adjusted and then bolted back to the ribbands.

We use a plumb bob to measure and set the frames to vertical. We insure the frames are perpendicular to the keel by measuring and setting two equal diagonals from the top of the frame horns to the center of the keel, much like measuring the two diagonals of a box for square.

We have used both water and laser levels to insure the Starboard and Larboard side sheers (approximate deck line) are at equal heights. When this process is complete, all the frames will have been set in all 3 dimensions and ready for bolting when the keelsons have been set.



Above: Tim and Mark measure the diagonals from the horn to the plumb bob Jeremy has centered on the keel.



Above and Right: Jeremy and Gil laser sighting. Left: Bruce planes the center of each frame to fit the keelsons and Jeremy setting up for the plumb bob on the next frame to be horned.



## **Maine's First Ship expands educational outreach**

Last August, after retiring as president, Merry Chapin agreed to chair our Education Committee. For several years this chair had been vacant and Eric Varney, Merry and many other worked together to develop and offer our highly successful summer shipbuilding programs while balancing many other demands.

With the 2013 season fast approaching Merry's team is working hard to create connections with educators and students of all ages to engage them in learning about our local shipbuilding history. Although Eric Varney will take a break for a summer wedding and post graduate studies, Paul Johnson has joined the committee. Possessing extensive educational credentials, Paul also has a literary talent we have found very valuable.

During our fall and winter hiatus from formal shipbuilding programs, we've conducted a series of past and planned tours by educational groups of our Popham Colony exhibit and Virginia's construction site. Special emphasis is being placed on developing programs for grade school aged students and these recent visits have served to inform both us and our students about what generates interest and energy when it comes to learning about our nation's earliest shipbuilding history and our reconstruction of Virginia.

We are reaching out beyond our highly successful summer shipbuilding programs with Morse High School students to Chewonki students who, under the guidance of instructor Scott Peterson, have volunteered to apprentice on Virginia's build this spring. Starting with Wednesday afternoons working with adult volunteers, plans to expand to Saturday hours are in process.

A series of grade school visits to the worksite, preceded by our classroom history lectures on Popham Colony, began with 55 Gardiner 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Based on the Gardiner class comments, learning by the "hands on history" offered in their tour and talk was actually fun.

Bath's Fisher Mitchell 5<sup>th</sup> graders are planning a boathouse and museum tour now the class talk on history has been delivered.

A tour by Woolwich grade school students is also being planned and other local grade schools solicited.

Pemaquid Boatbuilding School apprentices arranged the first of many tours of Maine's First Ship mini-museum and Virginia's boatshed recently.

Rounding out the academic levels now being accommodated, a short documentary about Maine's First Ship is being compiled by a Salt Institute student who has developed an interest in Virginia and her history.

Please see related articles on these recent visits.

## 2013 SUMMER SHIPBUILDING PROGRAM

Last year shipwright George Sprague joined the education team and worked with students shaping spars during an abbreviated session. Based on student demands, this year's program will revert to the full week and will run for 5 weeks, 5 mornings each week from 8 to 12. George has created an exciting curriculum for our students this year in basic woodworking with emphasis on maritime applications. Student engagement, skill building and project affordability are built into these projects and the applicability spans our target age groups. This year's plan call for formal programs with students entering the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades as well as grade school age groups and the introduction of Interns selected from program alumni mentoring younger students.

*"While I believe that an introductory woodworking course has a lot to offer in terms of skill-building, there is an opportunity to instill so much more than that. For that reason, my highest goals are to help the students develop confidence and problem solving skills." George Sprague, Shipwright*

## Virginia's Post-Construction Plans

Many of our visitors ask about what is planned once *Virginia* is built. With a continued focus on shipbuilding history, MFS will continue to offer educational program for students of all ages and for visitors from afar. A shift from construction to teaching ship operations will occur. A ship captain and a teacher will train high school students and volunteers to crew and maintain *Virginia*.

Public tours and lectures will be offered to teach participants the history of the Kennebec River—what Robert P. Tristram Coffin called the "cradle of an eloquent merchant marine that once covered the world." Visitors will have an opportunity to learn 17<sup>th</sup> century sailing techniques and to cruise to historic and aqua culture sites in midcoast Maine. Our students will be trained to act as docents on the public sailings and school visitations.

*Virginia* will act as Maine's ambassador to other historic shipbuilding ports along the Atlantic east coast such as Mystic, Plymouth and Jamestown. A transatlantic voyage is also being considered.

Summer Teacher Workshops will be offered for science curriculum and staff development credits. Participants will have hands-on opportunities to sail and row on the Kennebec, learn navigation skills, and the ability to make half models, oars and other marine artifacts. Focus will be on marine life in the Kennebec estuary and the importance of clean water. Participants would take field trips to nearby conservation areas, college environmental studies programs and marine research institutes. They would also be responsible for developing curriculum materials for inclusion in local and sending schools.

Volunteers for education programs, museum and ship construction are always welcome!



## Maine's First Ship expands educational outreach with Chewonki Foundation



Master Shipwright Rob Stevens prepares to demonstrate techniques for fitting the deadwood to Virginia's sternpost for Chewonki Student apprentices

Beginning in March 2013 a long awaited collaborative effort between Maine's First Ship and the Chewonki Foundation set sail.

Students and teachers are volunteering as apprentice shipwrights, working to build Virginia.

Each week a student teacher group works with volunteer shipwrights to learn shipbuilding terminology and techniques.

Pitching in on the work of the day, students have worked on fitting Virginia's deadwood timbers to the sternpost, learned to use the shipsaw to cut futtocks for the ships frames.



Students work below to prepare the frames for the keelson. All frames must be the same height and width to fit snugly into the mortise joints that will be cut into the keelson. Depending on the amount of wood that must be removed, various hand and power tools are used. For removal of larger amounts, parallel stopping cuts are made at intervals along the scrap surface with a skill saw, then removed and planed. Taking a break after a tough sawing job before planning, this student has found the sweet spot while trunnels continue to fall from the Japanese saw along the frame/keelson joint lines.

A big thank you to our hard working apprentices!





***Pemaquid School of Boatbuilding visit***

Based on a recommendation by a Virginia volunteer who is also a Pemaquid Boatbuilding School apprentice, the school arranged a tour of Maine's First Ship mini-museum and Virginia's boatshed recently. Orman Hines illustrates the ability of the ship saw in making beveled cuts and later describes the use and function

of Virginia's lofting floor where frames are assembled and pegged with trunnels. Without doubt the most well informed of our visiting groups to date, they found the unique qualities of Virginia's 17<sup>th</sup> century design quite fascinating. Additional visits are being planned.



**Salt Institute student develops web documentary on Maine's First Ship**

A two minute documentary about Maine's First Ship is being compiled by a Salt Institute student who has developed an interest in Virginia and her history. Radio major Mary Wesley spent several days filming and interviewing volunteer shipwrights building Virginia for a class project that will be posted on the Salt Institute website in May 2013.



Caught in the frames, Mary films volunteer shipwrights manhandling Virginia's full frames onto the keel. A link for this documentary will be found on mfs.org in May 2013.



## **Gardiner 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Visit**

*Spending a day in Bath, the City of Ships, Gardiner 5<sup>th</sup> graders split the day between Maine's First Ship and Maine Maritime Museum learning about the special role Maine has played in the shipbuilding history of North America. Meggan Henerlau, Maine's First Ship director and Gardiner teacher arranged the visit. Each group spent time with Orman Hines to learn about the founding of Popham Colony and what happens when the archeologists dig for artifacts and what they find. Students were given a booklet of plans for Virginia's sails and structure to use while they learned about the parts of a ship. They spent some time with Gayla Teague and Virginia's rigging model. But the unchallenged favorite was the time spent in Virginia's boatshed with Tim Teague and Jay Coffey learning about Virginia's construction.*





*Note: This will be the last Farmers Market profile until the winter market begins again in November. Starting Saturday May 4, 2013, the market moves back to the Bath Waterfront Park for the summer. Every vendor has a story – support your local business’*

Goranson Farm  
Bath Farmers Market  
Organic Community  
Supported Agriculture (CSA)  
MOFGA Certified



When it was suggested that I profile Goranson Farm for the newsletter, I quickly realized my personal relationship with this remarkable extended family of farmers could only result in a profile of my experience as a member. So with bias declared, this is

more the story of being a “distant relative” part of the family farm and the generational relationship with the land that only places like Maine can foster.

My first visit to Goranson’s Farm in Dresden would have been some time in the ‘60’s, to add fresh vegetables to those we grew on the family farm a few miles down the road towards Bath. Day tripper farmers ourselves, we managed to work two or three acres each year relying on luck and the labor of the entire family. We grew berries and vegetables which often fed the Woolwich wildlife after we left each evening for Bath where we lived. I clearly remember the excitement we all felt when we made our first trip to Goranson each summer. We’d pass several other farms along route 128 with growing anticipation before coming to their farm where vegetables we couldn’t grow or grow as early were available in a colorful abundance.

Years later in the late 80’s this relationship with Goranson Farm began anew. On our first farm encounter with Jan, Tim and I were greeted by the sight of two stunning women at work bagging 50 pound bags of potatoes. One fair, one dark, both tall and strong, and Jan at least eight months into term, they chatted as they hefted each bag as it filled and set it aside to start the next. “Amazon Farm” I whispered in awe. This soon changed to “Amazing Farm” after we met Rob Johanson, and that became the name which, with admiration and growing affection, we’ve called Goranson Farm from that day forward.

Working the family potato farm has been the work and story of a lifetime for Jan and Rob, and now Carl and Goran. Being a member of this extended family through the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program has been my inspiration and honor for the last 20 odd years. Nearly every year the variety and bounty increases. Contents vary by month, but November is the biggest haul for a CSA’r, bridging seasons, the crunchy fresh greens nestle in each share box atop pounds of root vegetables. December includes winter squash and last of the kale.



In January cabbage appears, and February's box makes a stewpot of sweetly savory "Root Soup". The carrots – oh the carrots in March are as sweet as candy. Every month in every box, eggs with yolks as bright as an orange. There are plump chickens raised cage free, maple syrup and more vegetables for sale at the farm during pickup, the second Saturday of

each of the coldest five months of the year. All these healthy delicious vegetable and farm products are also sold during the summer and winter Farmers markets in Bath and Boothbay, and the stand at the farm is also now open during the winter.

Over the years the farm and family have grown and flourished. Births and deaths, heartbreaking loss and bumper crops have not spared this family, yet the determination and joy they bring to the organic farming community remains constant. With an increasing number of apprentices and helpers most years, the new barn, saphouse and Carl's introduction of dairy is opening new markets for the family farm. Preparing for a farming future for the generations to come, each year facing an uncertain harvest, farming is not for the faint of heart. The heart of a farmer has deep and nourishing roots into the earth and the community, but takes nothing for granted.

*"There is a great community of people around the farm and kids who have grown up eating our food. The reward for farming is, for me, that the people who we are growing the food for are eating the food and that they are sustaining us and we are sustaining them. And it's working out pretty well."*

*Jan Goranson*

Goranson Farm  
River Road  
Dresden Maine 04342  
(207) 737-8334  
Goransonfarm.me

In a film by William Kunitz, the story of the 2009 growing season, the worst in 25 years, is told. An official selection for the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Camden International Film Festival, "An Uncertain Harvest" may be purchased by contacting [info@goransonfarmfilm.org](mailto:info@goransonfarmfilm.org)



## Flat Stanley visits Maine's First Ship.



Our nephew Dylan is a student in Mrs. Johnson's class at Cedar Lake Elementary in Delaware. They recently read a book about Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown. Flat Stanley is the story of a boy who was smashed by a bulletin board but was not hurt. Stanley discovered that being flat was fun and he had many adventures while in his flat condition. He slid under doors, flew like a kite and mailed himself to California to see his friends. Flat Stanley does a lot of things a normal boy or girl can't do. Dylan and his class mates each made their own Flat Stanley to send

to someone "special" to have adventures with. They will map all of the adventures of all the Flat Stanleys on a big map. Dylan chose Uncle Tim who lives in Maine and asked him to take Flat Stanley along for an adventure and then send pictures and other souvenirs for the class mapping project.

Uncle Tim took Flat Stanley to volunteer one day and found that he was just the right size for the rigging model that he helped to build. *Virginia's* model is a 1:8 scale which means for each



inch of model there are 8 inches of Virginia. That makes Flat Stanley over 5 feet tall at the rigging model scale. Uncle Tim is over 5 feet tall at full scale. That means Uncle Tim and Flat Stanley have the same scale ratio as Virginia and the rigging model.

Uncle Tim had to go get Flat Stanley when he climbed up on Virginia's stem, but all the volunteers agreed to give Flat Stanley a ride when the stood

one of the big ship frames up on the keel, you can see him holding on to the middle of crossfall in this photo we sent along with lots of others.



Since Uncle Tim had helped build the rigging model he had a spare oar and Flat Stanley refused to get into the envelope to be mailed home until we let him take the oar with him. We hope Dylan can use the oar in class to find out how long an oar for Virginia will be. We'll find out when Dylan and his family come to Maine in August.

**MAINE'S FIRST SHIP UPCOMING EVENTS: HELP NEEDED!!!**

Wednesday May 1, 2013

Virginia Volunteers 9 to 3

Second yard sale donation day: from 9 to 3 at the MFS end (north) of the freight shed – **anyone willing to help accept donations please contact me, thanks.**

Friday May 3, 2013

Yard sale prep from 2 to 6, anyone **willing to help please contact me, thanks.**

Saturday May 4

Virginia Volunteers 9 to 3

Yard Sale and Rent Party 9 to 3 (cleanup 3 to 5) **willing to help please contact me, thanks**

Monday May 6, 2013

Weekly press/calendar submissions

Vessel Committee Meeting 5:30 to 6:30 at Morse High School Library

MFS Board of Directors meeting 6:30 to 8:30 at Morse High School Library

Wednesday May 8, 2013

Virginia Volunteers 9 to 3

Yard sale cleanup 9 to 3 anyone **willing to help please contact me, thanks**

Tuesday May 14, 2013

Dinner Party and silent auction 5:30 to 8:30 at JR Maxwell's 5:30 to 8:30

RSVP by May 7, 2013

443-4242 OR MFS1@myfairpoint.com

Wednesday May 15, 2013

Virginia Volunteers 9 to 3

Yard sale final cleanup and museum prep 9 to 3 anyone **willing to help please contact Merry,**

**BATH FREIGHT SHED ALLIANCE UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Join us for the Summer Full Moon Dinner Series!

Sunday June 23rd AaronPark : Henry & Marty Restaurant

Monday July 22nd Ray Franklyn : SOLO BISTRO

Tuesday August 20th Jon Merry : Dragonfly Cove Farm

Thursday Sept. 19th Tim O'Brien : Trattoria Athena and Enoteca Athena

Set at the Freight Shed, overlooking the Kennebec these dinners will be catered by local Chefs featuring local produce, cheese, meats with wine and Maine beer. There will be live music. Your minimum donation of \$25 pp per dinner will go toward the restoration of the Freight Shed, Bath's winter local food hub.

Contact us if you are interested in volunteering. FMI <http://bathfreightshed.blogspot.com/>

Big thank you to volunteer Roger Barry for designing and setting up our new boathouse banner. With a white background superimposed with the flag of St. George this banner really POPS!

Big thank you to volunteer Tim Teague for painting the south boathouse wall to match the new banner – sprucing the place up for the influx of summer visitors and students.

This will be our last appeal for funds for Chewbacca's vet bills. If you would like the opportunity to help, please make checks payable to Dick Forest, Of the \$3357.08 needed we'd like to raise another \$400 - \$600. Thanks to all you have been part of this true "community effort".

We are soliciting nominations for the board of directors. Particularly needed are skills in event planning, grants and membership. Please call 443-4242 for more information.



**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE – NEW MEMBERSHIP LEVELS AND RECOGNITION!!!**- Extended For a limited time (through May 2013), we’re conducting a membership drive. Individual and business memberships will be given to donors who contribute at the dollar value equivalent to a membership level. We’re establishing some exciting new membership recognition levels for both individuals and businesses and have matching funds for donations up to \$5000 to multiply your gift. If you designate annual fund or Jane Stevens Challenge (double your dollars too!) we’ll provide a gift membership for the year. Try us out!

Individual donation levels:	Name	Membership levels	Other Recognition
\$100	Frame	2 memberships	Decal – 2 event passes
\$50	Plank	2 membership	Decal
\$30	Trunnel	1 membership	Decal
Volunteer hours	Trunnel	1 membership	Decal – 1 event pass T-shirt or hat after 60 days
Free	Community Advocates	1 membership	Decal
Free with parents approval	Junior	2 memberships	Decal

- Note : events planned for 2013 include the second annual Fireworks Party

Business \$ ranges	Name	Publicity in media	Membership levels	Recognition
\$1000-750	Mainsail	Logo and link on website front page	2 memberships	Decal – 10 event passes
\$500	Mizzensail	Logo and link on website back page	2 memberships	Decal – 4 event passes
\$300	Topsail	Logo In newsletter	2 memberships	Decal – 2 event passes
\$100	Bowspritsail	Name in newsletter	2 memberships	Decal

**PLEASE SUPPORT MAINE’S FIRST SHIP BUSINESS MEMBERS AND PARTNERS**

**Business Members:**

Patti Irish Media



Stevens Sawmill and Construction  
 Seaflower Garden and Design  
 Bath Savings Institution  
 Sebasco Harbor Resort  
 Henry and Marty's Restaurant and Catering  
 TMA Development  
 JR Maxwell & Co  
 Big Barn Coffee  
 C.W.Rogers, Inc

**Partners:**

First Federal Savings and Loan  
 Frohmiller Construction

MW Sewall  
 First Federal Savings & Loan  
 Now you're Cookin'  
 Higmo's Inc  
**Foundation Supporters:**  
 New Hampshire Charitable Foundation  
 Charles L. Read Foundation

Maine Historical Society  
 Baldwin Foundation  
 Davistown Museum

Robinhood Marine

Nat Wilson Sailmaker  
 Bath Freight Shed Alliance  
 Rockport Marine  
 BFC Marine  
 Maine Maritime Museum  
 Main Street Bath  
 Theodore & Theodore Architects  
 Regional School Unit #1  
 Bath Farmer's Market  
 Bath Iron Works Corp.

\*note: Maine’s First Ship Partners (donors of goods and services) receive recognition at Topsail level



***President's Comments April 21, 2013 MFS News Letter***

The peepers are out in full chorus in the pond in front of our house at Sebasco, but the nights are still dipping below the freezing mark. This has been a really productive winter for Maine's First Ship, especially with the building of "Virginia". With approaches made to several more sources of capital, including individuals, grants, banks and local business, we hope to garner enough funding to purchase white oak for planking and silicon bronze fasteners. The progress we are making on the "Virginia" would not be possible without the dedicated board members who work silently behind the scene to maintain us on an even keel. I hope that you will consider attending our Annual Gala at Maxwell's restaurant on May 14th. Rob Stevens a great raconteur will be the keynote speaker and talk about "Virginia's" progress.

Orman Hines

***MAINE'S FIRST SHIP FUNDRAISING GOALS FOR 2013: \$150,000***

***Jane Stevens Challenge - Matching Grant for \$5,000 for 2013***

FMI visit us online at [www.mfship.org](http://www.mfship.org)

Contact us at: [mfs1@myfairpoint.net](mailto:mfs1@myfairpoint.net)

(207) 443-4242

Maine's First Ship

PO Box 231 Bath ME 04530

Or stop by the Bath Freight Shed 27 Commercial Street Bath Maine "when the flag of St. George is flying"

***HISTORY AND COMMUNITY - BECOME A VOLUNTEER!***

