



Friends Of The South End

Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Summer 2010

The Captain Edward H. Adams: A Historic Piscataqua Gundalow

By Cara Waters

From the 1690's until the late 1800's, it was commonplace to see numerous gundalows running with the tides up and down the Piscataqua River and its 7 tributaries – transporting cargo between the waterfront communities of Portsmouth, Durham, Exeter, Dover, Newmarket and South Berwick. Rival gundalow captains often raced each other and the fastest clocked time from Portsmouth to Exeter was just over 6 hours. Gundalows also played a key role during the infamous raid on Fort William and Mary (now known as Fort Constitution) in 1775, transporting gunpowder barrels from Newcastle to Durham to hide them from the British. The Captain Edward H. Adams, a historically accurate replica of these uniquely local Piscataqua Gundalows, was built on the grounds of Strawberry Banke and launched in the summer of 1982. Owned by the non-profit Gundalow Company, the gundalow is used to provide maritime history and environmental educational programs throughout the Piscataqua Maritime Region.

What is a Gundalow?

A gundalow is a flat, shallow-bottomed wooden barge that was used to transport cargo on the local waterways to and from the larger sailing vessels moored in Portsmouth area harbors. They were purpose-built to maneuver in the swift river currents and shallow waters of the estuaries, and had to glide easily under the low-crossing river bridges. These boats had to be simple to operate, as it was typically farmers, crews of 2-3 men, who handled these vessels, rather than seamen or boat builders. Early 18th century gundalows were open boats with square-ended bows and broad beams, steered on the tidal rivers by poles or sweeps – long wooden oars. Rigs, with masts no more than 20 ft. high, and a yard with sail that could be quickly lowered and raised again whilst traversing under bridges, were added around 1800. The final gundalow designs were fully decked and spoon-bowed, with lateen sails and a leeboard (instead of a keel), and could carry cargo weighing over 40 tons. These boats were worked hard, then abandoned on the mudflats after about 8-10 years rather than being maintained.



The Captain Edward H. Adams gundalow under sail



Captain Edward H. Adams (1860-1950) was the last commercial Piscataqua Gundalow captain. He and his sons lived at Adams Point in Durham, NH and built their own gundalow, Driftwood, which was launched in 1955 and subsequently destroyed by vandals in the 1970's.

Common cargo aboard gundalows heading outbound for the Port of Portsmouth ships included salt marsh hay, livestock, produce and wood from regional farmers; manufactured cotton and linen textiles from mills in Newmarket, Exeter and Dover; milled lumber; and bricks made from the blue clay in Great and Little Bays. On their return trips gundalows would offload food, drink, coal, raw cotton and other manufactured goods from ships from overseas or southern U.S. states and deliver them to the general stores in the local riverfront communities. The advent of steam engines and the building of railways and roadways, ultimately led to the demise of the 200 year-old gundalow way of life. The era of the gundalows ended with the retirement of the last-known commercial gundalow, the *Fanny M.*, which had been built during 1883-1886 and was skippered by Captain Edward H. Adams until 1889.

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Friends of the South End Neighborhood Association

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FOSE Membership Renewal 2010

Membership Renewal Letters will be mailed on July 1st to all **current** members.

New members may join at any time. The cost is still a low \$15.00 per family.

If you know any potential **new** members, please share this newsletter with them and encourage them to email us at fose.messages@gmail.com.

Gundalow, cont. from page 1:



The Fanny M. was the last commercial Piscataqua Gundalow, working the Piscataqua region's rivers until 1889

The Current Captain Edward H. Adams Gundalow

After the destruction of the *Driftwood*, a group of Portsmouth citizens banded together in 1977 with the idea to continue the legacy of the gundalows by building a "historically accurate replica of their unique cargo-carrying riverboat using traditional materials and methods, to be used as an educational resource." This became known as The Piscataqua Gundalow Project and building commenced at Strawberry Banke in 1979 under the supervision of William A. Baker and David 'Bud' McIntosh; the latter having had worked alongside Capt. Adams as a young boy with his brother Ned. The design was based on large-scale drawings of the *Fanny M.* that had been produced by maritime historian D. Foster Taylor in 1936 from a model provided by Capt. Adams, and photos and measurements of the original *Fanny M.* that had been taken by MIT professors. Three years later, 3,000 onlookers joined in the festivities as the Captain Edward H. Adams was dragged into the water by a team of 10 oxen at the waterfront across from Strawberry Banke. Built as a museum exhibit, this gundalow does not conform to Coast Guard safety regulations for passenger carrying vessels and has instead been classified as a dockside attraction.

Since 2002, the non-profit Gundalow Company, headed by Executive Director Molly Bolster, has welcomed over 100,000 visitors aboard the Captain Edward H. Adams for their dockside programs throughout the Piscataqua Maritime Region. The Gundalow Company is once again bringing the gundalow presence back to Strawberry Banke, by relocating their offices and opening a new exhibit space at the Jefferson House, 60 Marcy St. as of Memorial Day weekend 2010. So stop by and learn more about our local maritime heritage and the expanded role of the Captain Edward H. Adams as a regional steward for the Gundalow Company's new mission - "Protecting the Piscataqua Maritime Region through Education and Action". For more details on the gundalow's current programs and calendar of events go to www.gundalow.org or visit the new office open Monday-Fridays 10-5, weekends and holidays by chance.

References:

The Piscataqua River Gundalow, by John P. Adams, Durham, NH.
 "Gundalow Part 1: Agricultural replica" by Greg Jones, *Classic Boat Magazine*, March 2010, pp. 44-48.
 "Gundalow Part 2: Building the replica" by Greg Jones, *Classic Boat Magazine*, April 2010, pp. 38-41.
 Thank you to the staff of the Gundalow Company for providing the photos and additional information on the history of gundalows and the Captain Edward H. Adams.

SAVE THE DATE

The Fairy House Tour Returns to the South End

By Ruth Maron

Dust off your fairy wings. Take that magic wand down from the attic and start collecting twigs, stones, feathers and shells. The famed Fairy House Tour returns to the South End on September 18 – 19 from noon to 4 pm.

The theme for the 6th Annual Fairy House tour is *Fairy Houses from Around the World*. “The Fairy House Tour is meant to be educational, as well as entertaining,” said Nancy Pollard, Chair of the FHT Committee. “Like last year’s tour that was based on fairy houses in literature, this theme is designed to encourage children and adults to look to other countries and other cultures for inspiration. We expect to see both creativity and learning go into these magical creations.”

The Fairy House Tour will wind through the paths and gardens of Strawberry Banke, the Wentworth Gardner & Tobias Lear Houses, the Governor John Langdon House and Prescott Park. Children and families will have a new building site this year in the historic woods of Governor John Langdon House. Games and other activities will take place in the children’s garden at Strawberry Banke. Best selling author Tracy Kane will also be on hand at Strawberry Banke to autograph her new mystery book, *Forest Secrets*.

And, back by popular demand, the Southern NH Dance Theater will perform *Fairy Houses–The Journey*. There will also be fairies to guide visitors along the tour, thanks to the students from the NH Theatre Project.

New this year will be *The People’s choice Award* for the most popular fairy house displayed at the Wentworth Gardner House. If you would like to participate in this event and create a fairy house here, please contact Tanya@light-beams.com.

Tickets go on sale in mid-August at Discover Portsmouth, G. Willikers, Flower Kiosk, Paradiza, Treehouse Toys, and Mainely New Hampshire; or online at www.prescottpark.org. Ticket prices are: Adult \$10; Senior \$8; Child (3-12 yrs.) \$4 and children under 3 yrs free. Family packages (2 adults, 2 children; or 1 adult, 3 children) \$20. Family tickets are advance sale only. Day-of-tour ticket prices are: adult \$15; senior \$10; child \$5. Tickets include admission to all historic sites on the tour. Free parking available on Peirce Island.

If you are interested in donating or becoming a sponsor, please contact Melissa Benson at melissa@erimelinc.com.

Look for FOSE alerts for updates on the Tour. If you would like to be part of this magical event as a volunteer, contact Nancy Pollard at pollard.nancy@gmail.com or call 373-8477.



Mark Your Calendar



Dinner at Geno’s – Thursday, June 24 – 5:00 – 7:30 pm

It has become a tradition! Once again this year, FOSE members will be dining on the deck with neighbors at Geno’s. Francesca Fernald will be cooking the usual favorites along with some mouth-watering specials, such as mussels in garlic and wine, and crab cakes. Geno’s is now serving beer and wine. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to FOSE.

*NATIONAL NIGHT OUT – Monday, August 2 – 5:30 – 8:30 pm
Four Tree Island at Peirce Island*

South Enders will be heading to Peirce Island in August to celebrate the 22nd Annual National Night Out. The event is sponsored locally by the Portsmouth Police Department as part of a nationwide effort to fight crime, strengthen community spirit and police-community partnerships. Take a picnic, bring something to put on the grill and something to share with your neighbors when our community gathers at Four Tree Island. There will be special activities for children. Members of the police and fire departments will also stop by to share in the festivities. Don’t miss this fun-filled evening with your neighbors and community leaders. Look for FOSE alerts with more details.

Around the South End

Strawbery Banke Museum

An American Celebration!

Saturday, July 4

12:00 noon–5:00 pm at Strawberry Banke Museum

603-433-1100, info@strawberybanke.org

Tickets are \$15 for adults. Kids 17 and under are FREE. Active military and their families are FREE.

A real old-fashioned fabulous 4th of July! Complete with children's bike and wagon parade, traditional games and crafts, historic garden tours, live music, living history, hands-on activities, food and fun for all.

Community Day at Strawberry Banke Museum

Saturday, August 7th

10:00am-5:00 pm

603-433-1100, info@strawberybanke.org

FREE

Enjoy all the museum has to offer and help fight hunger. FREE admission to the museum with the donation of a nonperishable food item, per person, to be donated to a local food bank.

Vintage and Vine - Harvest Wine Tasting Tour

Saturday, September 11th

5pm-8pm at Strawberry Banke Museum

603-433-1100, info@strawberybanke.org

Join Strawberry Banke Museum for one of the Seacoast's most popular fundraising events: Vintage & Vine! This delectable event will feature an assortment of fine wines along with top local restaurants donating exquisite hors d'oeuvres to compliment the fine wines. Save the date for this "must-attend" fall seacoast tradition at Strawberry Banke.

Governor John Langdon House

Walk With Washington

When: Fridays, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, and October 8, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Where: Governor John Langdon House, Portsmouth, N.H.

Phone: 603-436-3205

Admission: \$6 Historic New England members, \$12 nonmembers

Please note: registration recommended

Walk the streets of Portsmouth just like George Washington. During his visit in 1789, Washington took tea with his secretary's mother, Mrs. Lear, attended Mass at St. John's Church, and was feted at a reception at the Langdon House. This tour traces his footsteps from the Langdon House, past his lodging, the church sites where he worshipped, the waterfront he observed, and the house of a special family meeting.

Jazz Brunch

When: Sunday, June 27, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Where: Governor John Langdon House, Portsmouth, N.H.

Phone: 603-436-3205

Admission: \$30 Historic New England members, \$40 nonmembers

Please note: registration recommended

Welcome summer on a Sunday morning in the Langdon House garden. A jazz trio plays as guests enjoy a full brunch, including mimosas. Enjoy a leisurely walk through the gardens and grounds. Tour the house or use your ticket to come back another day.

Thirst for Freedom

When: Sunday, July 4, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Where: Governor John Langdon House, Portsmouth, N.H.

Phone: 603-436-3205

Admission: **free**

Explore the legend of Ona Judge and John Langdon's role in her brave story. In celebration of Historic New England's Centennial and the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail's Fifteenth Anniversary, the groups present a narrative, actors act out a scene from the original play by Emory Wilson, and there is designated time for discussion. Refreshments are offered and the Langdon House is open for tours.

Wentworth-Gardner & Tobias Lear Houses

Flag Day Observance

June 14th

Bring a picnic and celebrate the flag with us! Our annual Flag Day Observance will feature a talk by the Coast Guard about maritime flags and pennants. It's also a great chance to reacquaint yourselves with the houses (we open for the season on June 12th).

Inspired Creations Opening

June 26th, 5-8pm

Now in its third year, our annual art show opens on the 26th with a fresh selection of artwork, created by talented artists and craftspeople and inspired by the Wentworth-Gardner House. This unique show has grown from 10 to over 20 artisans working in an expanded number of artistic media. The show will run June 26th to August 8th.

Members & Neighbors Picnic

July 17th

We've rescheduled our annual picnic to July! Bring a picnic lunch and your family, sit by the river, and enjoy yourselves as we show our appreciation for your continued support.

Prescott Park Arts Festival

Chowder Festival

June 5th

The 26th Annual WOKQ Chowder Festival takes place on June 5th. Almost 20 restaurants are signed up and ready to bring their best chowder for this beloved summer tradition!

Peter Pan

June 25th through August 22

One of the most celebrated all-ages musicals comes to Prescott Park! Escape to Neverland and experience the adventures of Peter Pan and watch as the power of one boy's imagination takes flight reminding us all of the joyful simplicity of childhood and the thrill of being young at heart.

The River House Restaurant Concert Series

Every Wednesday evening featuring stellar acts like Judy Collins (August 4), our favorite Livingston Taylor (August 11), folk and blues hero Chris Smither (July 7), the hot, adventurous young Crooked Still (July 21), legendary Richard Thompson (August 27), JUNO Award winners The Wailin' Jennys (August 18) and so much more.

The Gundalow Company

June 14-25

The Captain Edward H. Adams Gundalow will be docked at Prescott Park.

Come visit the new Gundalow Company HQ and exhibit across the street at the Jefferson House, Strawberry Banke, 60 Marcy Street (open all year round, M-F 10-5, weekends and holidays by chance).

Annual Meeting and Open House

Thursday, June 17th – Annual Meeting – 5 pm; Open House – 6 – 8 pm.

A look back at 2009 and our annual meeting at 5pm. Open House with refreshments to follow 6-8pm at the Jefferson House, Strawberry Banke, 60 Marcy Street. (Parking available at the Strawberry Banke lot.)

South End Artist Exhibits at The Mark Wentworth Home

Ann Tolson, well-known painter and South Ender, is one of the artists currently exhibiting at The Mark Wentworth Home on Pleasant Street. She has 30 paintings in the exhibit.

Look for them along the corridor near the side entrance on Wentworth Street.

The exhibit runs through July. A public reception for the artists will be held on

June 15th from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. All are invited to attend.

Bricks and Mortar Update

By Tom Hindle

Once again the pleasing sounds and smells of spring are upon us. This year's "construction season" promises to be much less robust than last year's was. With the exception of the never-ending State Street project, the South End is relatively free from major capital improvement projects. Here is a quick summary of the works on schedule at present:

Project #14: Mechanic Street and South Mill Street Seawalls

Description: The Seawalls adjacent to the Mechanic Street Sewage Pump Station and South Mill Street are currently failing. The walls will be reconstructed using different methods to ensure future stability. A new guardrail/fence system will also be constructed.

According to Dave DeFosses, the project manager, this project just received the final wetland permits the week of May the 12th. The funding for the project is to be put on the city's slate during the month of July after which the project will go out for bid. Currently the city estimates that this project will cost approximately \$150,000 and will require two months to complete. As far as I can tell, the initial scope of work will involve addressing the seawall between the pumping station and Geno's Restaurant on Mechanic Street. Although this is listed by the city as addressing two distinct areas (Mechanic and South Mill Streets) it is not clear that this is how the project will actually be addressed. I'll continue to try to clarify this project.

Project #15: Peirce Island Bridge Rail Replacement Project

Description: The bridge railings and W-beam guardrails will be replaced on the Peirce Island Bridge. The crew is almost done with this project and they hope to be all wrapped up by the time you receive this update. Indeed the goal is to be finished and out of the area before the Tall Ships arrive Memorial Day weekend.

As you can see the workload is quite reduced this year. Please write in to the FOSE email address, fose.messages@gmail.com, should you have any specific concerns that you would like to see addressed.



The Players' Ring Board members Barbara Newton and Sam MacLeod gratefully accepted a donation from FOSE President Nancy Pollard as special Events Coordinator JoAnn Lamoreaux looked on. The FOSE donation was made after a production of "Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years," with a reception for FOSE following.

THE BOXES ON THE BRIDGE

By Barbara Engelbach

When the City of Portsmouth established the "Adopt-A-Spot" program in 1995, a seed was germinated in our minds. Why not have flower boxes on the Marcy Street bridge? Dave Schirmer created wooden boxes for both sides of the bridge and geraniums and petunias blossomed creating a colorful vista by the South Mill Pond. There was some ensuing mischief, however, as some of the plants were uprooted and thrown into the pond. Some of the boxes suffered the same fate. Phil Wright bolted the remaining boxes to the bridge supports, Dave Schirmer made more boxes, and neighbors rescued the flowers and replanted them. Several years later Elria and David Ewing joined the planters and the project became a FOSE enterprise. The aging boxes were replaced by Mark Leonardi and Frank Roth. Thanks to the efforts of these people and other South Enders, we now have a garden everyone can enjoy.

Peirce Island Enhancement Project

By Lyz Boudreaux

Following the Comedy Extravaganza at the Music Hall in February, the spring and early summer events at Peirce Island have spanned a wide range. The "kick-off" with a fund raiser at Flat Bread Pizza was just the beginning of this season's events! Local merchants and artists donated some wonderful raffle items and we were thrilled at the turnout from the community. The proceeds from the fund raiser are earmarked for two new benches to be placed strategically on the Island for the enjoyment of all. A heart felt thanks to Flat Bread Pizza and all who came out to support our mission!

April was a busy month with events including a clean-up effort where neither rain nor cold nor wind was a deterrent for all those who came to pitch-in and help Blue Ocean's efforts to rid the Island of trash. Eagle Boy Scout Troop 334 lent a hand as well as a large number of volunteers. The Pet Walk sponsored by the Portsmouth Dog Owners Group gathered on the morning of the April 24th for their 5 mile walk to raise funds and awareness for Safe Place, a local domestic violence support center.

On Arbor Day, a collaboration of local tree and landscaping businesses spearheaded a tree and brush removal on the Island. The dead wood and invasive plants were all taken away and the Island looks more beautiful than ever. There will be 19 new trees planted by fall as well as a hydro-seeding of the big field.

The Peirce Island Enhancement Project is planning more fund raising events for the summer and fall and we look forward to sharing more information as the dates are secured. Upcoming is the Peirce Island Cocktail Cruise with special guests Tony Sarno Hard Blues, an amazing blues band out of Nashville, hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar in early September. Tickets will be on sale after Memorial



Eagle Boy Scout Troop

Day through the Peirce Island Committee and will be \$40 each or two for \$70. Also in the works are a "Laundro-Mutt," a dog washing event for all dirty dogs, and a costume parade on the island in fall.

The mission of the Peirce Island Enhancement Project is to work with the Peirce Island Committee and local city officials to enhance the natural beauty of Peirce Island with environmentally sound enrichment's for the enjoyment of all.

Please be sure to follow us on Facebook at Friends of Peirce Island!

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Photo courtesy of Piscataqua Maritime Commission

“America’s Privateer” Lynx

At the start of the War of 1812 America had only a 17 ship navy, so private vessels were granted “letters of marque” to prey on enemy shipping as “privateers”. The original Lynx, a Square Topsail Schooner built in 1812 with four 6 pounder cannon and sharply raked masts, was designed for speed to avoid the British fleet blockading American ports. So effective were the privateers at running the blockade that their main construction yard at Baltimore became a prime British target.



Photo courtesy of Piscataqua Maritime Commission

HMS Bounty

Built in 1960 for the movie “Mutiny On The Bounty” starring Marlon Brando, and featured in “Pirates of the Caribbean II”. She is a historic replica of the original Bounty built in 1784 that took Captain Bligh and Lieutenant Christian halfway around the world to Tahiti, followed by the famous mutiny on their return.