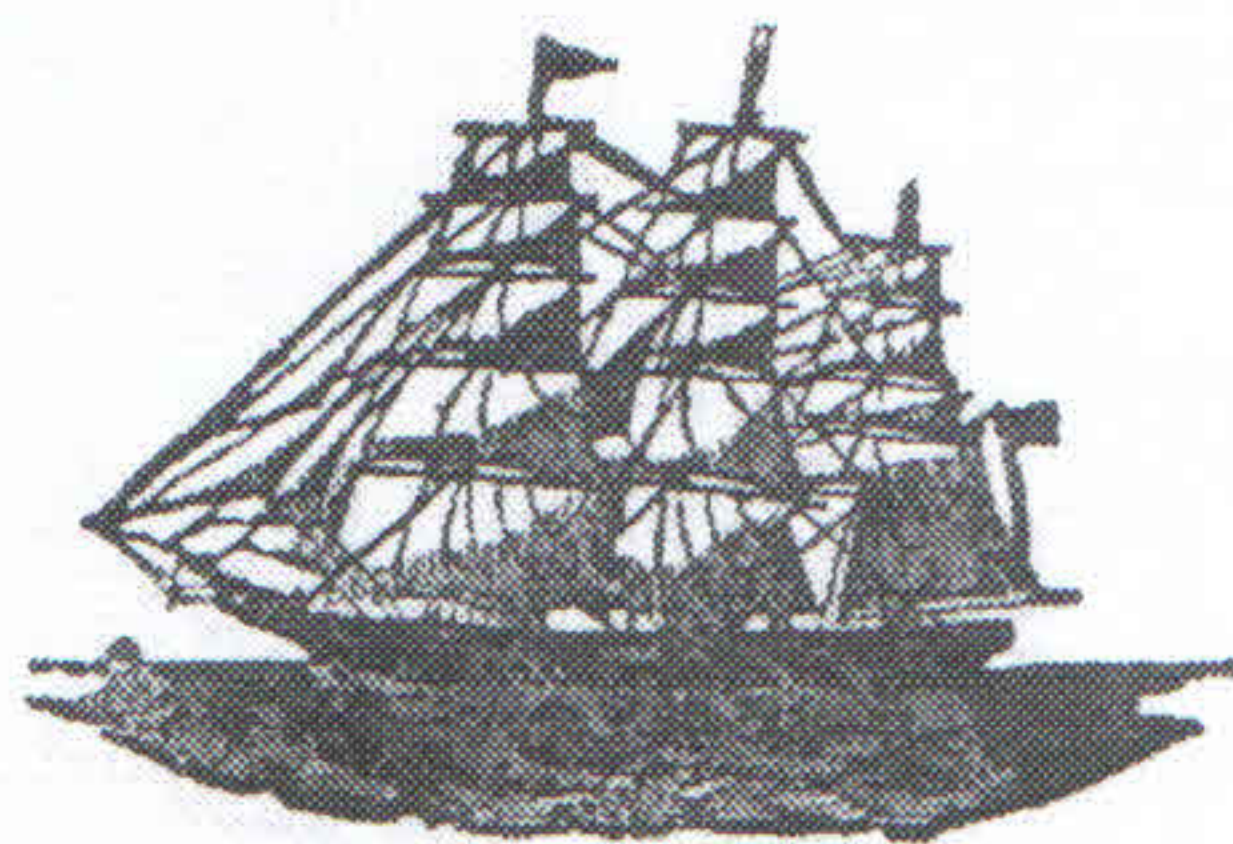


HISTORY
OF THE
MARINE SOCIETY
OF
NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS,

FROM ITS INCORPORATION IN 1772
TO THE YEAR 1906: TOGETHER WITH
A COMPLETE ROSTER AND A NAR-
RATIVE OF IMPORTANT EVENTS
IN THE LIVES OF ITS MEMBERS.



COMPILED BY
CAPTAIN WILLIAM H. BAYLEY
AND
CAPTAIN OLIVER O. JONES

1906.

Voted, that the thanks of this society be and hereby is given to Capt. James Hudson for his good services as master of the society, since its first institution to this time.

Voted, that Capt. William Wyer, Capt. James Tileston, Capt. Anthony Knap, Moses Brown and David Coates be a committee to settle the society's accounts and let out their money at interest.

Voted, that the society will meet at Mr. A. Davenport's the ensuing year.

Voted, that whereas Capt. Moses Hale has absented himself from the society for more than six months past and has been notified thereof by the master and required to attend at the next monthly meeting and give his reasons therefor, to which he has paid no regard, therefore, that he be deemed unworthy of any dependance from the society and excluded from the benefit of the box, and be not re-admitted again without strictly complying with the fifth article of the bye laws.

Voted to adjourn this meeting to Tuesday evening next.

Dec. 6, 1781, the committee appointed to settle the society's accounts and let out their money at interest, beg leave to inform the society that they are not ready to report, by reason of the absence of the late treasurer and request further time.

Voted, that the committee be granted further time, to report at the next meeting:

Voted, unanimously to admit Capt. Thomas Tracy a member of the Marine Society.

Voted, that whereas Capt. John Barnard, a member of the Marine Society has been present in the society but one evening since his admission in the year 1772, has not paid his dues regularly, is now greatly in arrears and in our opinion has been guilty of a breach of the thirteenth article of the standing laws, and sustains a character unworthy of a member of this society and also has absconded from, and left his native country and taken part with enemies thereof.

Therefore, that he the said John Barnard be deemed unworthy of any dependance from the society and excluded from the benefit of the box.

Jan. 31, 1782, collected L4-5s-9p.

The committee appointed to settle the society's accounts and let out their monies at interest, report that they have attended such business and find the society to be possessed of a bond for L128-7s-3-4 p cash in paper money, old emission, L516-12s twenty-

March 25, 1784, the committee appointed to devise ways and means to support the lights on Plumb Island, beg leave to report that the gentlemen of trade in this town have agreed to take the lights under their direction and have made provisions therefor.

July 29, 1784, voted, that a committee of inquiry be chosen at the request of Capt. Thomas Tracey and agreeable to the bye laws of the society, to examine into the conduct of said Tracey during his late voyage, and make report thereof in writing at the next meeting.

Voted, that Capt. William Coombs, Capt. John Fletcher, Col. Wigglesworth, Capt. Michael Hodge, Capt. James Johnston, Capt. William P. Johnson and Capt. Nicholas Johnson be the aforesaid committee.

Aug. 26, 1784, the committee who were appointed to make inquiry into the conduct of Capt. Thomas Tracey during his late voyage, beg leave to make the following report, that they find the several following articles of charge or complaint are made against him:

- 1st. That he did run his owner into a very extraordinary expense at Baltimore (not having any orders therefor) by putting a new deck to his ship which caused a long detention after peace and occasioned a train of misfortunes during the voyage.
- 2nd. His want of proper care and attention to his provisions and water during his voyage to Europe, his conduct in going to, and detention whilst at Ireland.
- 3rd. His disbursements and detention whilst at Gottenburg.
- 4th. Detention of his letters, fourteen days after his arrival.

Your committee proceeded to examine and inquire of Capt. Tracey the reasons for his conduct in the several articles of charge above written, to which he made the following answers:

1st. Capt. Tracey's reasons for his conduct in laying a deck upon his ship at Baltimore were, that Mr. Purveyance, the gentleman to whom he was addressed to receive his cargo from, and whom he really considered in the same light with respect to the direction and management of his vessel there, as he did his owners in Newburyport, strongly advised him thereto.

2nd. That his going into Ireland was occasioned by the want of bread and water, which is fully set forth in his protest. Your committee would here beg leave to state some facts, as they appeared by examination of the mate and the log book, that Capt. Tracy did on the 31st January, 1783, send on board his ship two thousand and twenty pounds of bread, which in addition to between three and four hundred weight of bread then on board amounted to about twenty-four hundred weight. That sixteen men were victualled upon an average from that time to the first day of July, the day of his arrival in Ireland, which completed a term of

one hundred and fifty-two days, which on calculation is found to be short of one pound per man per day, the propriety of which the society must be judge of.

That his detention in Ireland was occasioned by being obliged to go as far as Cork for a supply of bread, not any being to be procured nearer which he says might have been performed in five days, but being within one day's ride of his parents, from whom he had been absent seventeen years, he was induced to pay them a visit. He was absent from his vessel fifteen days.

3rd. Your committee did not take up the third charge, viz: that of detention and disbursements while at Gottenburg, they conceived it unnecessary.

4th. Capt. Tracey says that the detainment of the letters were owing to their being misplaced through the negligence of his boy, that he really supposed that he had delivered all he had in possession when off the bar. The instant he was undeceived he carried and delivered them himself to the concerned.

By order of the committee,

Signed, WILLIAM COOMBS, Chairman.

Newburyport, Aug. 26, 1784.

Voted, that the discussion of the report of the committee of inquiry on Capt. Tracey's conduct be deferred to the next meeting.

Sept. 30, 1784, voted, that the committee appointed in November, 1783, to examine into the merits of Mr. Tufts' composition, be a committee to inform that gentleman, that from some late tryalls they have had on his composition, they are very diffident of its fully answering those salutary purposes which was intended, at present cannot give it that recommendation which Mr. Tufts would wish for.

Voted, to defer acting on the report of the committee of inquiry on Capt. Tracey's conduct during his late voyage, until the next meeting.

Oct. 28, 1784, voted, that it is the opinion of the society that a supper be provided for them at the annual meeting.

Voted, that Capt. Russell and Capt. Aubin be caterers for the purpose above said.

Nov. 25, 1784, officers chosen:

Capt. William Coombs, Master.

Capt. David Coats, Deputy Master.

Capt. John Fletcher, Treasurer.

Capt. Michael Hodge, Clerk.

Voted, that Capt. Ebenezer Stocker, James Nicoll and William Stickney be a committee to settle the society's accounts and to let out their moneys at interest.

was voted satisfactory, also report that they have paid the treasurer, six pounds, eight shillings for interest on L53-6s-8p and twenty-five shillings cash received from the different members for the bye laws.

Voted, to adjourn this meeting to Tuesday, the 13th day of December next at 6 o'clock p. m.

Dec. 13, 1785, voted, that the report of the committee for managing and disposing of the society's estate be accepted and put on file, viz:

That they have examined the clerk's books and find them properly stated, well avouched and rightly cast, that the treasurer's accounts are agreeable thereto, and that the estate consists of a number of securities, together with specie and paper money, viz:

Capt. James Hudson's bond	L100- s- p
One state note	L 97- 1s- 6p
Hawley's bond	L 26- s- p
One share in Massachusetts bank	L150- s- p
Cash loaned by Michael Hodge	L 53- 9s- 8p
Cash in treasurer's hands	L 40- 4s- 8p
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	L466-15s-10p
Cash in paper emission	L516-12s- p
Three years' interest from	
Capt. Hudson on his bond	L18- s
Two years' interest on state	
note	L11-14s L 29-14s- p

DAVID COATS,
WILLIAM COOMBS,
EDWARD WIGGLESWORTH,
WILLIAM P. JOHNSON,
JAMES NICOLL,
Committee of Marine Society.

Voted, that Capt. Enoch Pike, Capt. Joseph Stanwood, Capt. John Somerby, Capt. Joseph Lunt, Capt. Enoch Lunt, and Col. Jonathan Evans, be certified by the clerk to his Excellency the Governor, as persons suitable in the opinion of this society for pilots, into and out of the river Merrimack.

Dec. 29, 1785, voted that Capt. Fletcher, Col. Wigglesworth, Capt. William Coombs, Capt. Hodge, and Capt. A. Knap, be a committee to make such further inquiry respecting Capt. Thomas Tracy's conduct during his late voyage to Baltimore and Europe as they may think needful, and to report such a draught of a certificate

as will be consistent with the honor of the society to grant, and report at the next meeting.

Voted, that Capt. Isaac Randal of Amesbury be certified by the clerk to his Excellency the Governor, as a person suitable in the opinion of this society, for a pilot into and out of the harbor of Newburyport, or river Merrimack.

Voted, that the clerk be and is hereby directed to furnish the treasurer with an account of the dues and fines, which Capt. Thomas Thomas is in arrears for to the society, and that the treasurer be directed to present it to him for payment.

Jan. 26, 1786, the committee appointed at the last meeting to make such further inquiry into the conduct of Capt. Thomas Tracy, during his last voyage to Baltimore and Europe, as they might think necessary, and to make such a draught of a certificate as is consistent with the honor of the society to grant, beg leave to make the following report, viz, that they have paid particular attention to the business assigned them, have made such further inquiry as to them appeared needful, and do recommend that the following form of a certificate be signed by the master and given to Capt. Tracy to make such use of as he shall see fit.

To all persons whom it doth or may concern. The Marine Society of Newburyport, in the County of Essex, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Sends Greeting :

Whereas, Capt. Thomas Tracy, late master of the ship Queen of France, has been charged by his owners with misconduct, and breach of orders, during his late voyage to Baltimore and Europe, and the said Thomas Tracy, having solicited an inquiry into his conduct during the said voyage.

The said society have made a critical and impartial inquiry into the conduct of the said Thomas Tracy during the voyage aforesaid, and are of opinion that no part of his conduct, which has come to their knowledge, ought in the least to disqualify him from the command of a vessel. That all his transactions did appear to be the result of an honest mind, and that his abilities as a seaman are unquestionable.

For witness whereof, the said society have caused their seal to be hereunto affixed, and to be signed by the master of their society.

Given at Newburyport, this 26th day of January A. D., 1786.

Voted, that the foregoing report of the committee appointed to make inquiry into the conduct of Capt. Thomas Tracy, etc., at the last meeting, be accepted.

The treasurer of this society having reported that he had waited on Capt. Thomas, agreeable to their directions and present-

CAPT. GEORGE RAPALL,

Joined the Marine Society Nov. 29, 1781.

Died Dec. 1783.

CAPT. BENJAMIN CONNOR,

Joined the Marine Society Nov. 9, 1781.

Disfranchised Nov. 28, 1799.

CAPT. PHILIP AUBIN,

Joined the Marine Society Nov. 29, 1781.

Died at Guadaloupe, Aug. 25, 1801, aged 51 years.

Capt. Aubin commanded the brigs Active, Robert, Peggy, Betsey, Hannah and Vulture and bark Ossipee.

CAPT. THOMAS TRACY,

Joined the Marine Society Dec. 6, 1781.

CAPT. WILLIAM RUSSELL,

Joined the Marine Society Nov. 27, 1783.

Died March 9, 1818.

Deputy Master from Nov. 27, 1800 to Nov. 29, 1804.

Capt. Russell was in command of a small vessel called the Gen. Ward, and fitted out as a privateer, carrying only twelve men. Her armament consisted of one musket for each man and one small swivel gun. Notwithstanding this small force they captured two British brigs.

Capt. Russell kept store on Market Square and gave out provisions to the sufferers by the great fire of 1811. He commanded the schooner Rising Sun and the ship William.

CAPT. WYATT ST. BARBE,

Joined the Marine Society Nov. 25, 1784.

Died Nov. 14, 1811.

Deputy Master Nov. 26, 1807 to Nov. 24, 1808.

The following letter sent first to the Department of State and forwarded by him to Capt. William Coombs, president of the Marine Society of Newburyport, contains a narrative of the bitter experiences of Capt. Wyatt St. Barbe: