



custom house
MARITIMES
 SUMMER 2026

New London 380 - Harbor Light 265 - USA 250 - Race Rock 147 - Ledge Light 117 - NLMS 43 - nlmaritimesociety.org



Photos from top: cMiddle: On view through July - artist Edie Twining presents a new series of collages inspired by *Moonsong*, a 1923 poem by Mildred Plew Meigs. Above: Opening August 1 Johanna Case-Hofmeister's project, *Santos*, spans the desolate volcanic coastline of the Baja Sea of Cortez and the city of Mexicali. image: 2 Ribs.

from the frank I. mcguire library at nlms

Lately there has been so much political controversy over immigration to the United States that it is easy to overlook the historic contribution that immigrants have made to the economic development of our country. To find an example of local benefits from immigration to Southeastern Connecticut, one needs to look no further than the collections of the New London Maritime Society where the Shoreline Rail Road map of New London from circa 1874 is currently on display in the Frank L. McGuire Library.

This map of the Shore Line Railway and adjoining property in the City of New London (pages 2-3) shows the layout of the south side (waterfront) of Bank Street running from the railroad bridge over Shaw's Cove to just beyond the Parade. The map is undated but it was probably drawn about 1874 and it states the names of the owners of the properties on Bank Street that abutted the railway line.

Most of the surnames of property owners listed on this map of Bank Street are names that are familiar from local history going back to colonial times: **Bishop, Frink, Starr, Deshon, Harris**, etc. However, some of the others are the names of people who came from far away to settle in New London to make a life for themselves here and, in the process, to contribute to the economy of their chosen land.

Looking at our map, the first name that stands out is that of Joseph Lawrence (1788-1872), who was born **Giuseppe Lorenzo** in Venice, Italy. After relocating from Savannah, Georgia, he arrived in New London in 1819 where he married a local woman, Nancy Woodward Brown. Lawrence was an extremely successful and wealthy whaling agent and banker in New London. By the time our 1874 map was drawn, Joseph Lawrence was dead but his estate held property (land, buildings and a large wharf) in this area at the foot of Golden Street. His wealth passed to his sons and to many local institutions, such as the hospital, of which the Lawrence family was a founder and generous benefactor. It can be said that we are still benefiting in 2026 from the labors of immigrant Joseph Lawrence and his family. He is buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Charles F. Stoll (1837-1901) is another name on our map. He was born Karl Friedrich Stoll in Baden-Wurttemberg. According to the 1876 directory he operated a granite works and marble yard at 72 Bank and also resided there. This site is now the location of the Vessel Technologies building at 174 Bank Street. He is buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Herman Pobig was a tailor who was born in Prussia in 1833. The 1876 directory lists him and his wife at 56 Bank Street where they maintained a home and business. He was 'one of earliest German immigrants in New London' but he returned to Europe in 1910.

cont. page 3

Local Friendly Authentic

Open Thursday, Friday & Sunday, 1-5 PM, & Saturdays from 10 AM to 5 PM

Custom House Maritime Museum - 150 Bank Street - New London - Connecticut - *Telling the stories of New London's Waterfront.*



Visit inside Ledge Lighthouse



NL Harbor Lighthouse



JIBBOOM Club #1 - 3rd Tues. of the month



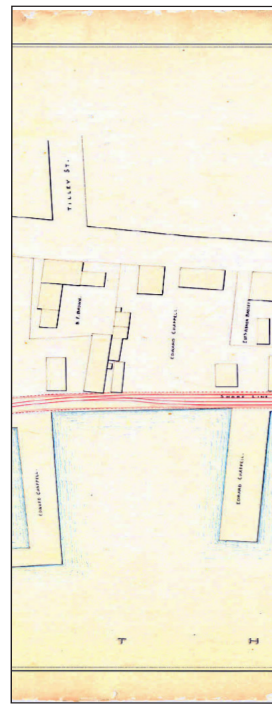
Open Mic - last Sundays of the month



Making boats!



Photo: Thanks to a grant from the Ludwick Family Foundation in 2025 we hired Stonington Steel to recreate the historic railing at Race Rock Light. Your donations enabled them to install it!



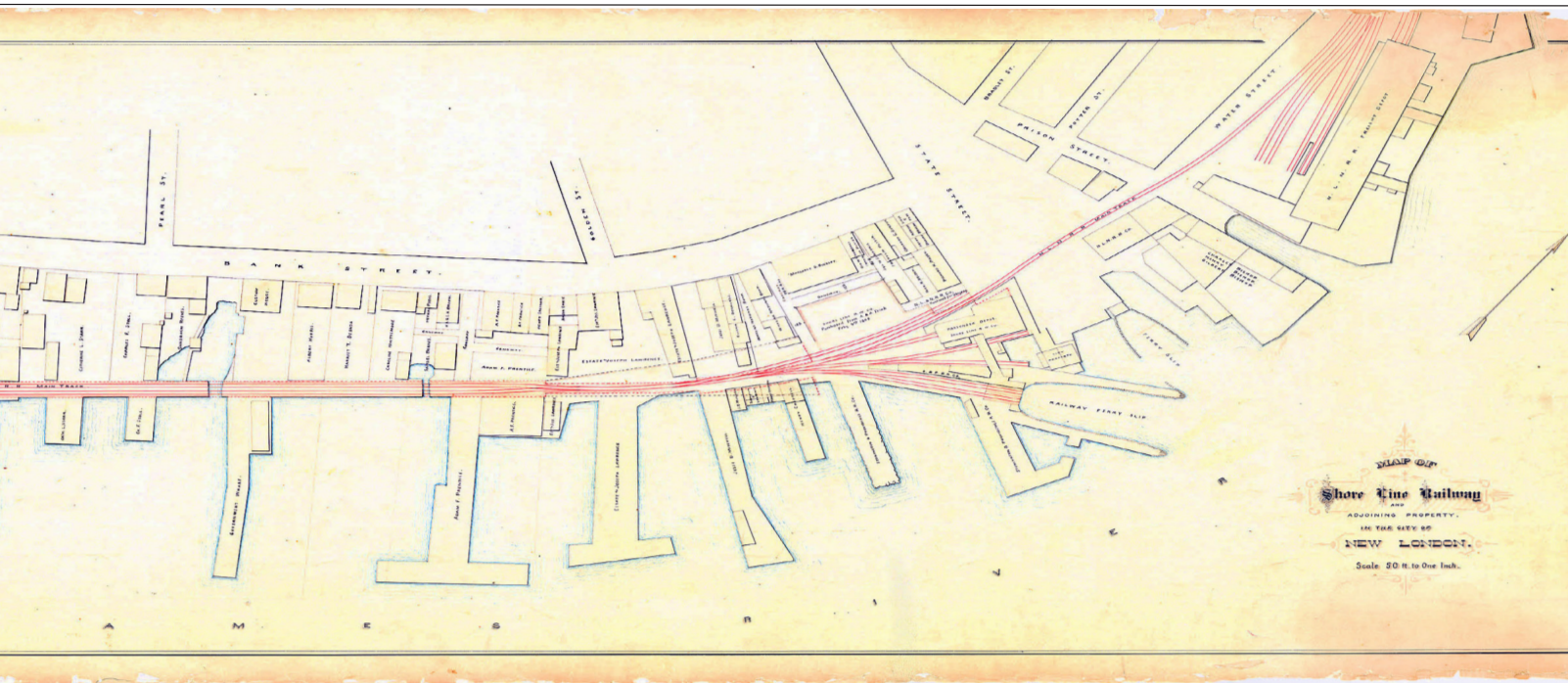
summer highlights - for full listings, go to nlmaritimesociety.org

- Boat trips to visit inside **LEDGE LIGHT** and **RACE ROCK LIGHT** run July-Sept. Dates vary, with most on the weekends. Sign up for our lighthouse trips online at <https://humanitix.com/us/search/us--ct--new-london/lighthouse?dates=all>
- Tours to climb **HARBOR LIGHT** run year-round. We meet at the lighthouse, then climb 116 steps to the lantern room with its 4th-order Fresnel lens. It is the oldest and tallest lighthouse on Long Island Sound! Sign up with the link above. Email to schedule your custom tour: nlmaritimedirector@gmail.com.
- **JIBBOOM CLUB #1** meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 1:30 PM. Join us for a talk, good company, coffee & cookies. Sponsored by Joe & Rose Maco, the gatherings are FREE and open to all. July 21, August 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 20.
- **Open Mic at the Museum** meets from 6-9 PM the last Sunday of the month. Share your original music, poetry, prose, stand-up, or just say what's on your mind. \$5 donation. July 26, August 30, Sept. 28, Oct. 25.
- July 11 **CELEBRATE NEW LONDON** -- We're having a Super SALE of items from the Custom House Museum Gift SHOP. Special **Thames River Gallery, NLCHS, Waterford Country School** partnership event.
- August 1 **First Saturday** Opening for **Johanna Case-Hofmeister's** exhibition *Santos*.
- August 26, 2 PM -- *A Celebration of Life* for former NLMS trustee & head docent **Bill LaRoue**. Please come and share your memories of Bill. At the Custom House.
- visit nlmaritimesociety.org to keep up with all our new summer events.



Be the first to know - sign up for weekly email news blasts -- email nlmaritimedirector@gmail.com

The Custom House Maritime Museum - your local, independent, community museum - open year-round - telling the stories of New London's waterfront!



cont. from page 1.

Henry M. Stayner (1808-1890) was a cabinet maker, born in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In the 1880 federal census he is listed as a retired undertaker. His residence was on Broad Street at the corner of Hempstead, and he is buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Last on my list of immigrants is the name of '**Margaret G. Bulkley**' who may possibly be Margaret Donegan Buckley or Bulkley (1813-1901), the wife of Patrick Buckley, of Buckley and Casey (Marble and Granite workers), a business that was located at 84 Bank Street. A notice appeared in *The Day* in 1884, announcing the dissolution of the firm by mutual consent, but that the business would continue under the old name, signed M.D. Buckley. She was born in Ireland and is buried in Saint Mary Cemetery with her husband and two sons.

All of the immigrants mentioned above contributed to the prosperity of their adopted country and left their mark on the development of New London. ■

Laurie M. Deredita, Librarian, Frank L. McGuire Library

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 \$1,000__ Sign-up date _____

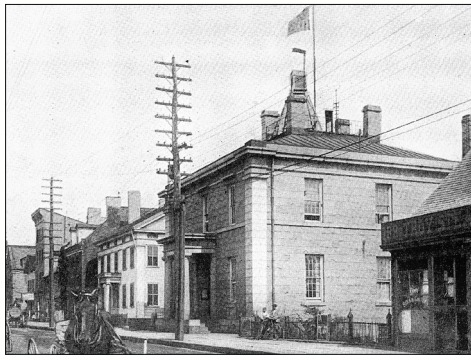
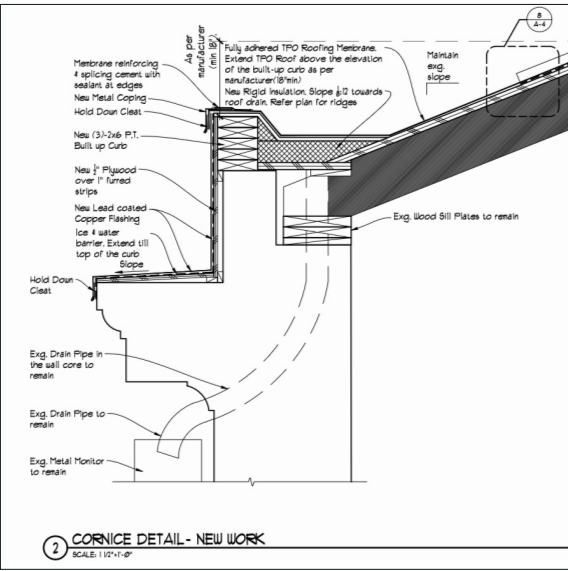
Cash__ Check__ ~ please make payment to New London Maritime Society Visa__ Master Card__ AmEx__

Number _____ Exp. date _____ Security code _____

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

New London Maritime Society's mission is to protect, preserve, & and celebrate New London's U.S. Custom House, three area lighthouses, and Long Island Sound, and to interpret the rich maritime life & history of the port of New London and the surrounding region through museum exhibitions, educational programs, and preservation initiatives. Learn more about us at nlmaritimesociety.org.

New London Maritime Society - Custom House Maritime Museum, 150 Bank Street, New London, Connecticut 06320 860.447.2501



Thanks to two years of generous contributions to our **New Roof Campaign**, a new \$50,000 grant from the **Frank Loomis Palmer Fund**, and a bequest from the estate of former NLMS trustee and head docent **Bill LaRoue**, *above*, Phase 1 work on the Custom House roof replacement begins in July.

Phase 1 includes replacing the standing-seam metal roofing on the four sloping sides of the roof—in other words, everything except the flat section at the top—as well as enlarging and strengthening the Yankee gutters to better manage increasingly heavy rain events. In recent years, we have spent nearly \$150,000 on emergency roof repairs, including addressing an ice-dam leak this winter that brought water into the library. Thanks to a swift response, no books or archival materials were damaged. Once construction begins, we will launch a Phase 2 campaign to complete the project. That phase includes restoring the original rooftop platform and railing, and installing a new roof hatch and flagpole.

This milestone would not have been possible without the support of so many donors, members, volunteers, grantors, and friends. Thank you for helping us preserve the Custom House for future generations. *Donate to Phase 2 - <https://gofund.me/8e844d1ed>*

Photo: At each roof corner rainwater collected in the Custom House’s historic Yankee gutters takes a 90° drop into drainage pipes which are concealed within the building’s walls. The pipes then curve to reemerge beneath the cornice, carrying water safely away from the structure. Phase 1 work will include replacing the roof membrane to prevent water from backing up, and raising the height of the gutters to better handle increasingly heavy rainfall.



Cheers to our sponsors: Anthony and Elizabeth Enders Fund - Charter Oak Credit Union - Andy Champagne - Chelsea Groton Foundation - City of New London CDBG - Community Foundation of Eastern CT - Tina Coplan - Capt. John Desjardins - Elevate+ - Frank Loomis Palmer Fund, Bank of America, N.A. - the estate of William LaRoue - Richard E. and Marjorie E. Rowe Family Fund - Rose and Joe Maco - Louise Novitch - Robinson+Cole - Thomas Sanford - Thames River Gallery - Vanguard Charitable - Veolia/NL Water Authority - Axel Westerberg. *Photo, below:* Sunset June 20, 2026, on the NLHarborCam.



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local friendly authentic
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