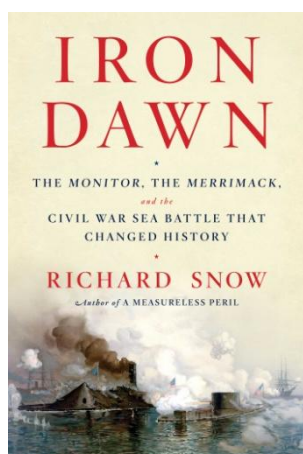


2018 NMHS Seminar Series Schedule

National Maritime Historical Society
5 John Walsh Blvd, Peekskill, NY 10566
(914) 737-7878 Ext. 0; nmhs@seahistory.org; www.seahistory.org

The NMHS Seminar Series was founded in 1992 under the auspices of the National Maritime Historical Society at its headquarters on Charles Point in Peekskill, New York. Its mission is to build greater awareness of the rich seafaring heritage of the Hudson River Valley and the world at large, and to create a constituency to advocate for our maritime legacy. Through its monthly lecture series and annual outreach events, the NMHS Seminar Series is actively engaged in promoting maritime heritage, providing valuable educational programs and preserving historic ships and traditional seafaring skills. Since its inception, the Series has organized over 250 lectures, seminars, field trips and ship preservation projects featuring noted authors, historians, film producers and artists to publicize the maritime history of our area and abroad.

Members of the general public are encouraged to attend! NMHS Seminar Series events are both a great way to learn about new facets of our maritime heritage and also to meet others who share an interest and enthusiasm for the field. Come join us for refreshments and camaraderie! With the exception of our annual July excursion, there is no charge to attend the seminars, but a \$5 to \$10 donation is appreciated to support our efforts. Seminar Season Passes and Sponsorship Opportunities are also available, and they're a great way to support the work of the Society. On our Saturday seminars, if you would like to join NMHS and the speaker for lunch following the presentation, the cost is \$25 prepaid, with cash bar. **For more information or to register, please email nmhs@seahistory.org or call 914 737-7878 x 0.**



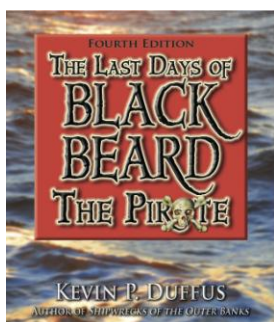
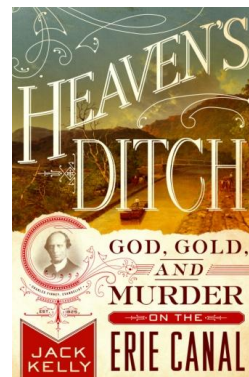
Saturday, January 27, 10:30 AM: “Iron Dawn: The *Monitor*, the *Merrimack*, and the Civil War Sea Battle that Changed History” Presentation and Book Signing with **Author Richard Snow** – Hendrick Hudson Free Library, 185 Kings Ferry Road, Montrose, NY.

Author Richard Snow argues that no single sea battle has had more far-reaching consequences than the one fought in the harbor at Hampton Roads, Virginia, in March 1862. The Confederacy, with no fleet of its own, built an iron fort containing ten heavy guns on the hull of a captured Union frigate named the *Merrimack*. The North got word of the project when it was already well along, and, in desperation, commissioned an eccentric inventor named John Ericsson to build the *Monitor*, an entirely revolutionary iron warship—at the time, the single most complicated machine ever made. Abraham Lincoln himself was closely involved with the ship’s design. Rushed through to completion in just 100 days, it mounted only two guns, but they were housed in a shot-proof revolving turret.

The ship hurried south from Brooklyn (and nearly sank twice on the voyage), only to arrive to find the *Merrimack* had arrived blazing that morning, destroying half the Union fleet, and would be back to finish the job the next day. When she returned, the *Monitor* was there. She fought the *Merrimack* to a standstill, and saved the Union cause. As soon as word of the battle spread, Great Britain—the foremost sea power of the day—ceased work on all wooden ships. A thousand-year-old tradition ended, and the path to the naval future opened.

Saturday, March 10, 10:30 AM: “Heaven’s Ditch: God, Gold and Murder on the Erie Canal” Presentation and Book Signing with **Author Jack Kelly** – Hendrick Hudson Free Library, 185 Kings Ferry Road, Montrose, NY.

Author Jack Kelly offers a fresh look at a critical moment in American history as the nation celebrates the Canal’s bicentennial. A technological marvel of its age, the Erie Canal was the epitome of the can-do attitude of the age of the common man. The visionaries of the era didn’t just dream, they made things happen, building a 360-mile waterway entirely by hand. The canal made New York the financial capital of America, brought the modern world crashing into the frontier, and stimulated the nation’s commerce for decades to come. *Heaven’s Ditch* illuminates the spiritual and political upheavals along this “psychic highway” from its opening in 1825 down through 1844, and it tells its story through a fascinating cast of characters. Along the way, the reader encounters the very first “crime of the century,” a treasure hunt, searing acts of violence, a visionary cross-dresser, and a panoply of fanatics, mystics, and hoaxers. The climax arrives on the day millions believe the world will end.

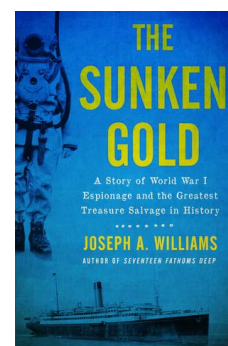


Saturday May 19, 10:30 AM: “Blackbeard’s Last Battle: the Conflicting Interpretations of his Origins and Motivations” Presentation with **Author Kevin Duffus** – Hendrick Hudson Free Library, 185 Kings Ferry Road, Montrose, NY.

The notorious pirate Blackbeard stands among the most popular figures of early colonial American history, yet no one still knows who he really was. To this day, his identity, his origins, and his motivations for committing acts of piracy remain in contention. Did he hail from England, Jamaica, or the Carolinas? Was his surname Teach or Thatch, or something else entirely? Was he an undistinguished common sailor suddenly thrust into command of a pirate ship? Was he a former Royal Navy sailor and an aristocratic, Anglican slave-owning planter who inexplicably turned Jacobite and pirate? Or was he an ordinary mariner on a salvage mission lured into piracy by a mob of looters, who later became a pawn in an attempted political coup in proprietary North Carolina? These conflicting interpretations have provoked rancorous debate among archaeologists and historians. At stake are the credibilities of monolithic institutions and museums, the reputations of researchers and authors, the financial stakes of publishers, and the future of a popular historical narrative. For more than 45 years, award-winning research historian Kevin Duffus has followed the wake of the notorious pirate’s journey through history. Along the way he has discovered startling clues and pivotal waypoints in Blackbeard’s odyssey that point to a startling conclusion—one that many scholars do not want the public to know.

Wednesday, June 20, 6:30 PM: Richard Belliveau Seminar - “The Sunken Gold: A Story of World War I Espionage and the Greatest Treasure Salvage in History” Presentation and Book Signing with **Author Joseph Williams** – Hendrick Hudson Free Library, 185 Kings Ferry Road, Montrose, NY.

On January 25, 1917, HMS *Laurentic* struck two German mines off the coast of Ireland and sank. The ship was carrying 44 tons of gold bullion to the still-neutral United States via Canada in order to finance the war effort for Britain and its allies. Britain desperately needed that sunken treasure, but any salvage had to be secret, since the British government dared not alert the Germans to the presence of the gold. Lieutenant Commander Guybon Damant was the most qualified officer to head the risky mission. Wild gales battered the wreck into the shape of an accordion, turning the operation into a multiyear struggle of man versus nature. As the war raged on, Damant was called off the salvage to lead a team of covert divers to investigate and search through the contents of recently sunk U-boats for ciphers, minefield schematics, and other secrets. The information they obtained, once in the hands of British intelligence, proved critical toward Allied efforts to defeat the U-boats and win the war. But Damant had become obsessed with completing his long-deferred mission. His team struggled for five more years as it became apparent that the work could only be accomplished by muscle, grit, and persistence.





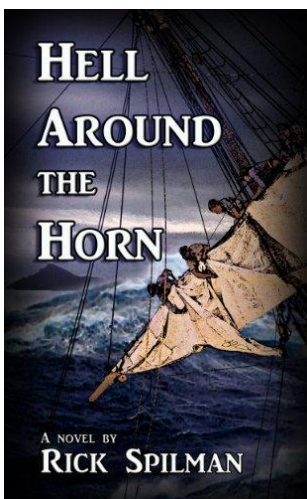
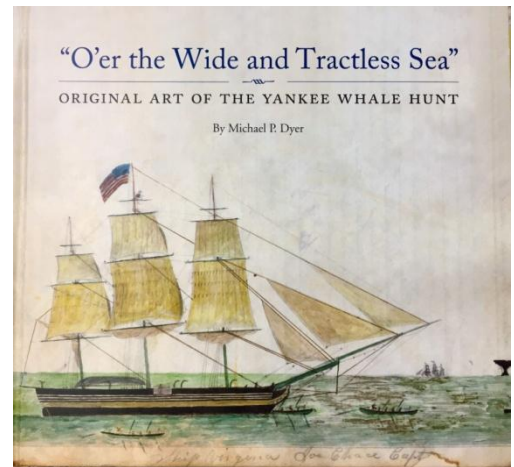
Saturday, July 21, 9:30 AM: Excursion to Hudson River Maritime Museum & Scenic Tour of Rondout Creek – Meet at 5 John Walsh Blvd, Peekskill, NY

Meet us at NMHS Headquarters at 5 John Walsh Blvd in Peekskill, NY at 9:30 am for a one-hour comfortable charter coach ride to the Hudson River Maritime Museum in Kingston, New York for a private tour of the museum and scenic walking tour of the grounds on Rondout Creek. We'll explore wooden boat building

on the Hudson, artisan boat models from the museum's collection, Hudson River lighthouses past and present, the hands-on replica of the aft cabin of Henry Hudson's *Half Moon*, the steam tugboat *Mathilda* and much more about the area's industrial, maritime and ecological history. We'll have lunch at a local restaurant and allow some time for meandering on the waterfront. The coach will depart Kingston at 2:30pm, arriving back in Peekskill by 4pm. The price for this excursion, including charter bus, museum admission, tours, and lunch is \$70. Seating is very limited and early reservations are suggested. Details to follow.

Saturday, September 22, 10:30 AM: "O'er the Wide and Tractless Sea: Original Art of the Yankee Whale Hunt" Presentation and Book Signing with Author and New Bedford Whaling Museum Curator **Michael Dyer** – Hendrick Hudson Free Library, 185 Kings Ferry Road, Montrose, NY.

Michael Dyer offers new perspectives on life at sea and maritime culture in his book *O'er the Wide and Tractless Sea: Original Art of the Yankee Whale Hunt*, featuring over 300 illustrations of whaling scenes, scrimshaw, prints, and paintings. From the 1750s through the first years of the twentieth century, American whaling voyages ranged farther off shore, and ultimately around the world, in a pursuit that produced oil and baleen for the growing population and industrialization of the United States. Buried deep within the logbooks, journals, and manuscripts of America's whaling heritage are paintings, drawings, and representations of the whale hunt rarely, if ever, seen by the public. The book highlights those unique artworks that capture the essence of whaling and its culture—not just through the whale hunts themselves, but also the important events the whalers recorded pictorially with their shipmates and the people they encountered in their travels.



Saturday, November 3, 10:30 AM: "Hell Around the Horn: A Nautical Thriller" Presentation and Book Signing with **Author Rick Spilman** – Hendrick Hudson Free Library, 185 Kings Ferry Road, Montrose, NY.

Hell Around the Horn, by author and *Old Salt Blog* founder and host Rick Spilman, is a nautical thriller set in the last days of the great age of sail. In 1905, a young ship's captain and his family set sail on the windjammer *Lady Rebecca* from Cardiff, Wales, with a cargo of coal bound for Chile by way of Cape Horn. Before they reach the Southern Ocean, the cargo catches fire, the mate threatens mutiny and one of the crew may be going mad, yet the greatest challenge will prove to be surviving the vicious westerly winds and mountainous seas of the worst Cape Horn winter in memory. Though this is a work of fiction it is based on a well-documented voyage in the early 1900's, a period rarely covered, and the descriptions of life aboard are as informative as any non-fiction work without overpowering the reader with superfluous detail. *Hell Around the Horn* is a story of survival and the human spirit against overwhelming odds.

Saturday, December 1, 10:30 AM: Hudson River Lighthouses Part II with **Historian Scott Craven** & Holiday Potluck – Cortlandt Yacht Club, 238 Kings Ferry Road, Montrose, NY.

Back by popular demand, Scott Craven returns after his first series on Lighthouses of the Hudson to present the fascinating stories of the six lighthouses of the lower Hudson and New York Harbor: the Ambrose Lightship, the Sandy Hook Light, Jeffrey's Hook Light (the Little Red Lighthouse) the Lighthouse at Sleepy Hollow, Rockland Lake Light (one of the "lost lighthouses of America,") and the Stony Point Lighthouse.

Scott will discuss the history of each and how they have protected the river and kept commercial traffic flowing smoothly and recreational boaters safe. Scott Craven speaks extensively about a variety of Hudson River topics and teaches local history to teachers at the Ossining Teachers Center. He has an MS in history and has lived along the banks of the Hudson River his entire life. Stay for the potluck! Bring a dish, drink or dessert that serves six to eight.



Enjoy a year of seminars & family fun at maritime museums!

Support the Seminar Series with a Season Pass or Sponsorship and get free admission to many of the world's best maritime museums! ***A \$100 or higher contribution includes not only a reserved spot at our year-long NMHS Seminar Series, but also a year of free admission to the museums in the Council of American Maritime Museums — over 75 museums nationwide!***

Join now and celebrate twelve months of educational and recreational activities for maritime enthusiasts of all ages at some of the world's best maritime museums. The youngest and oldest sailors alike will enjoy hands-on exhibits, activities and interactive shows where they can see, touch, explore, and climb aboard! All museums offer a minimum of free admission, and most admit guests free as well, making this a great gift for families!

Check out the CAMM website (www.councilofamericanmaritimemuseums.org) for a complete list of participating organizations, including local favorites Mystic Seaport (CT), South Street Seaport Museum (NY), USS Constitution Museum (MA) and Independence Seaport Museum (PA), along with San Diego Maritime Museum (CA), Michigan Maritime Museum (MI), Maine Maritime Museum (ME), the Mariners' Museum (VA), and so many others. Call to register today at (914) 737-7878 Ext. 0, or email nmhs@seahistory.org!

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