

RLAMPS ILLUMINATOR

Racine Lighthouse and Maritime Preservation Society

SPRING 2020

WWW.RLAMPS.ORG

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello RLAMPS members! Wow the changes that we have seen since the beginning of 2020.

We have become experts on Covid-19, safe distances and living “safe at home.” All of a sudden, important to our lives is finding out how many cases of the virus there are in the state and around the world and hoping the amount will diminish so we could get back to our lives before the virus started.

We were so lucky to have had the riveting Feb.4th Education Night with Caitlin Zant before all of these recent events! She has such a wealth of knowledge and taught us all so much about Maritime Archaeology and Shipwrecks of Southeast Wisconsin.

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone Ron Lutrell’s encore lecture on Model Ship Building and Cal Kothrade’s Prinz Willem presentation. Cal’s presentation will now be on October 20, 2020 and we are working to reschedule Ron’s presentation.

We are chomping at the bit to see you at a future Education Night and in the interim we are looking for new ways to educate while being “safe at home.” See the Virtual Education Nights on Page 2.

We are thankful to have you, our valued members, supporting the RLAMPS mission. Without you there is no us!

Please stay safe (and at a distance).

Sincerely,



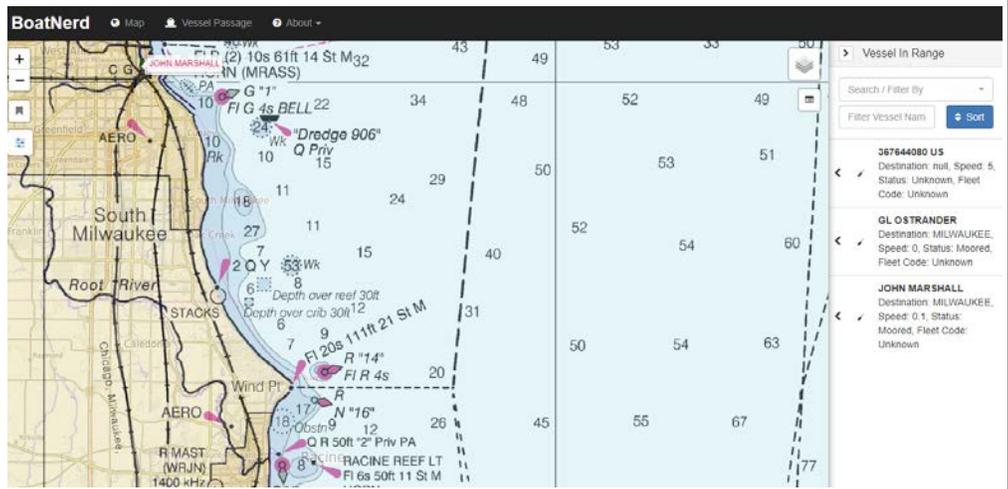
Laura (Lauri) Tomasek
 President, Friends of the Wind Point Lighthouse dba
 Racine Lighthouse and Maritime Preservation Society (RLAMPS)



Racine Lighthouse and Maritime Preservation Society

Boat Nerd AIS System: Ever wonder about the name of that boat you can see on the horizon of Lake Michigan or where it is going? Check out the AIS (Automatic Identification System) on

ais.boatnerd.com. This site has a real time map of the Great Lakes that you can zoom in on that shows the name and location of boats on the Great Lakes and elsewhere in the world. There is also information about destination and speed. Because it is real time, if you wait too long to check, the boat will continue to move.



Board of Directors — Racine Lighthouse and Maritime Preservation Society

President	Lauri Tomasek	Directors:	
Secretary	Marilyn Blood	Bill Frank, Newsletter	Linda Frank
Treasurer	Juanita Clobes	Bob Jaeck, Historian	Ron Luttrell
		Lynne Jossart, Membership	

Upcoming Education Night:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have cancelled the May 14, 2020, Education Night. This program has been rescheduled on **October 20, 2020** (see below).

Future Education Night Programs:

September 8, 2020—M. Paul Hollander will speak about the events that lead up to the sinking of the Lady Elgin. Our Education Night is scheduled on the anniversary of the tragedy. This story began in Racine.

October 20, 2020—Cal Kothrade will present on the wreck of the Dutch freighter Prinz Willem V.

November 12, 2020 — Barb and Ken Wardius will present on “Lighthouses of Racine—Past and Present.”

March, 4 2021—Ron Luttrell will speak on The Great Storm of 1913, the white Hurricane of 1913.

May 2, 2021—Phil Block will present on Lights of the Lakes.

Virtual Education Nights:

Brendon Baillod, the author of the article that is being serialized beginning in this issue, has a YouTube Channel, Great Lakes Shipwreck Research. The link to this channel is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3T3SFsvBUgE&t=554s>. This channel has a number of videos that may be of interest to RLAMPS members. The link to the channel will let you choose videos that may be of interest to you. Check out the Frederick Stonehouse video.

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**Fathoms Deep but Not Forgotten:
Wisconsin's Lost Shipwreck Sites
Part II: Racine County
Brendon Baillo d ***

This article is the second in a continuing series examining the historical maritime archeology sites in Wisconsin. This installment will review the historical shipwrecks of Racine County. Like Kenosha in the preceding article, Racine boasts a high shipwreck density due to her position between the busy ports of Milwaukee and Chicago. After being settled in the mid-1830s, Racine quickly developed as a Lake port despite her shallow river mouth harbor. The harbor first began to see traffic in the 1830s when steamers from the east began to anchor off the river to ferry in passengers and freight. In 1839, a lighthouse was erected to assist vessels in locating the harbor and by 1840, the sandbars at the river mouth had been removed enough to allow small schooners to enter. Since that time, Racine has seen many vessel losses with the greatest number occurring in the period 1850-1900. The following list includes all known total loss shipwrecks to commercial vessels in Racine County waters. It was compiled over the course of 20 years from hundreds of sources by Brendon Baillo d and Bob Jaeck.

Schooner **McFarlane**: (no #), built about 1840, size unknown.

On December 1, 1841 a schooner by this name is reported in news accounts to have gone ashore near Racine. No record of this vessel exists in any other news account, vessel list or government document, but numerous news accounts reported the wreck in specific detail. It may have been a small locally built vessel.

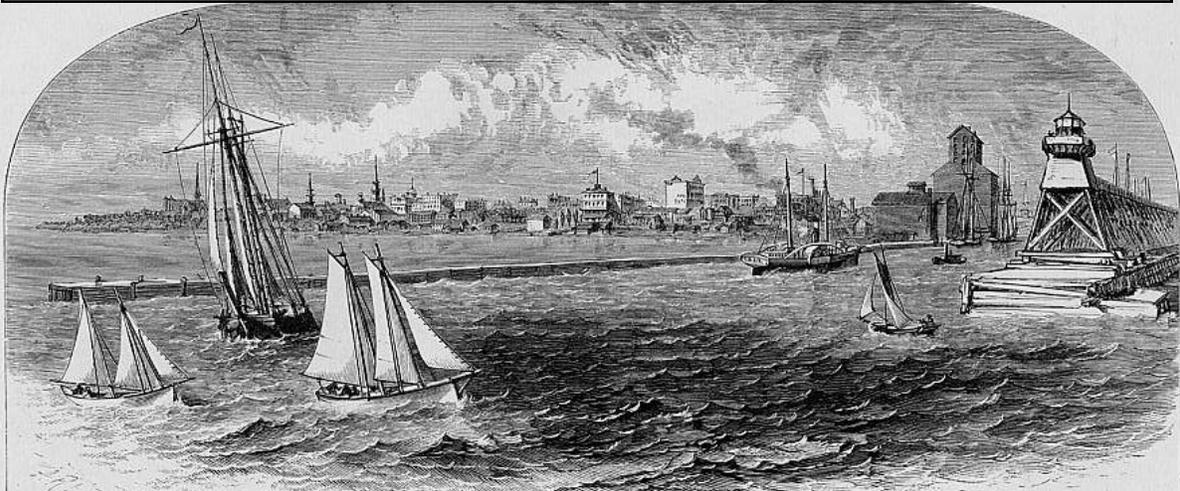
Schooner **Black Hawk**: (no #), built 1832, 60.0 x 17.2 x 5.85 ft., 51.30 gt. BOM

The schooner *Black Hawk* stranded at Racine on October 10, 1847 but was freed and departed for Manistee the same week under Captain Greene. She was never heard from again and was declared a total loss in March 1848.

Schooner **Bolivar**: (no #), built 1842, 46.28 gt. BOM

Bound Milwaukee to Chicago, this small schooner was blown ashore in a gale three miles north of Racine on November 21, 1847. She broke up over the winter, a total loss for her owner, J.P. Allen of Chicago.

1872 Racine Harbor Piers Woodcut—Brendon Baillo d Collection—Used with permission



Schooner ***LaSalle***: (no #), built 1835, 83.0 x 24.0 x 9.8ft., 167.46 gt. BOM

Bound Chicago to Buffalo on September 23, 1849, the *LaSalle* capsized and was last seen on her beam ends about 12 miles off Racine. Eight of her crew were lost and one was rescued. Sources suggest her hull may have been towed in, but she never sailed again.

Brig ***Theodore W. Maurice***: (no #), built 1831, 52.3 x 17.10 x 5.2ft., 45.54 gt. BOM

On August 30, 1850 the brig *T. W. Maurice* became waterlogged off Ahnapee while bound to Chicago with oak planks. She was driven south and fetched up off Wind Point, where she broke up completely. Her cargo was scattered down the beach all the way to Racine.

Schooner ***Sylvanus Marvin***: (no #), built 1842, 65.0 x 18.9 x 6.1 ft., 64.63 gt. BOM

This schooner, also seen as *Sylvester Marvin*, is reported to have foundered off Racine on May 22, 1851. She was lost with eight crew and her captain, W.P. Denton. She ran out of Milwaukee primarily in the lumber trade. Sources also place this loss off Grand Haven, MI.

Schooner ***Mary Ann Lamed***: (no #), built 1846, 73.0 x 17.8 x 6.9 ft., 79.33 gt. BOM

On May 23, 1851 this schooner was driven through Waterman's Bridge Pier at Racine and blown upon the beach, with a lumber cargo. She was reported pulled off the beach, but at \$1300 her loss was likely total.

Schooner ***Young America***: (no #), built 1854, about 139 x 29 x 10 ft., 531.43 gt. BOM

The new schooner *Young America* was bound from Chicago to Oswego on September 23, 1855 with corn when she was run down by the schooner *Black Hawk* about twenty miles off Racine. She went down in deep water, her mastheads not even being visible below the surface, a total loss. A brig of the same name was built in 1853 at Buffalo and is often confused with this schooner. This wreck has never been found.

Schooner ***Dean Richmond***: (no #), built 1855, about 140 ft., 362.73 gt. BOM

Another big, new schooner, the *Dean Richmond* was lost only three weeks after her launch when she went on the rocks five miles north of Racine on October 21, 1855 with a cargo of coal and lumber, bound for Chicago. Her bow was high out of the water and her stern submerged, but she could not be pulled free and broke up over the winter. Another schooner of the same name was launched the following year. This site probably has extant remains but has yet to be located.

Schooner ***Temperance***: (no #), built 1847, 108.6 x 22.4 x 7 ft., 156.57 gt. BOM

This schooner was under tow by the tug McQueen with a lumber cargo when she broke free in a gale and drove ashore a few miles north of Racine on April 1, 1857. She was a total loss at \$3000.

Racine 1883 Brendon Baillo Collection—Used with Permission



Schooner ***Peter Doling***: (no #), built 1848, 78.6 x 14.6 x 5.8 ft., 60.57 gt BOM

This schooner went ashore on the point just south of the Racine Lighthouse with a cargo of lumber and fruit, on September 11, 1857. She was pulled free but sank in the harbor where she was abandoned.

Schooner ***Henry Clay***: (no #), built 1842, 73.25 x 15.5 x 5.75 ft., 59.40 gt. BOM

The schooner *Henry Clay* was driven ashore about seven miles north of Racine in a storm on October 15, 1857. She reportedly broke up as a total loss, although insurance damages were placed at only \$300. She disappears from news accounts and enrollments after this accident.

Scow Schooner ***Rocky Mountain***: (no #), built 1852, 76.5 x 23.5 x 6.25 ft., 123.47gt. BOM

This scow schooner was driven ashore with a lumber cargo a few miles north of Racine during a storm on October 21, 1857. She was a total loss at \$3200.

Schooner ***William Foster***: (no #), built 1842, 47.1 x 14.5 x 5.4 ft., 50.07 gt. BOM

In June 1858 this little schooner was reported capsized with the loss of no lives ten miles off Racine and later towed into the harbor. She disappears from enrollments and news accounts after this accident, but several sources place the mishap at Chicago and not at Racine.

Bark ***Colorado***: (no #), built 1857, 147.9 x 30.5 x 12.1 ft., 505.44 gt. BOM

The big three-masted bark *Colorado* went on the reef off Wind Point on October 28, 1863 with a coal cargo. She was abandoned in place in November and was sold at auction before she broke up completely on December 30. Another bark *Colorado* was built the next year. This wreck may have extant remains but has never been found.

Part 2 will be published in the next newsletter

* Reprinted from ***Wisconsin's Underwater Heritage***, March 2008 Issue with permission of the Author.

RLAMPS has received a license to a number of historic images related to the Racine Reef Lighthouse. Watch for more photo previews in our newsletter, on our Facebook page, as well as our website.

Reef Lighthouse Keeper in Uniform

Photograph by Richardt Hansen
Property of Sandra Cornell, used under license agreement with RLAMPS.
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Notice: Dewey's is open only on Friday's from 3:00 to 8:00 PM for **Carry Out Only**. Please call 262-898-2077 to place your order.
Also, Dewey's is donating meals on Fridays to first responders. They are accepting donations to assist in this effort.

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RLAMPS Highlights

On February 4, 2020, we had a great presentation about underwater archeology by Caitlan Zant from the Wisconsin Historical Society. Caitlan described how measurements are taken to develop a scale depiction of a wreck and so artifacts can be pinpointed.

Membership Renewal Info:

Membership renewal letters will be sent in May. To renew either mail your membership form, along with your check, to: Friends of the Wind Point Lighthouse Treasurer, P. O. Box 44067, Racine, WI 53404-7001, or visit our website: www.rlamps.org and click on the “Renew Membership” Button.



Please visit our updated website www.RLAMPS.org More and more Racine maritime history is being added on a regular basis.