



INSTITUTE OF MARITIME HISTORY

The Institute of Maritime History is a non-profit corporation that was founded in 1994 to research, find, document, and help to preserve archaeological sites relating to maritime history, and to assist graduate students in field projects. Clients and beneficiaries of our work include states, the federal government, colleges, and private societies in the field.

Projects.

Our Submerged Historical Inventory Project (SHIP) is a multi-state effort using trained volunteer divers and researchers under professional supervision to find and assess submerged sites, and report them to the State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs). Sites are not disturbed and are disclosed only to the SHPO. No-impact reconnaissance is conducted with sidescan sonar, magnetometer, and divers. SHIP began in Maryland in 2005 and has expanded to Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

Maryland. To date, IMH has mapped and reported 77 shipwreck sites to the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), and has found at least 60 more ship and aircraft sites that still need to be assessed. In 2015 we will —

- (a) assess eight or more potential sites suggested by MHT in the lower Potomac;
- (b) map approximately 15 wrecks in the Potomac River below Mallows Bay MD;

- (c) map approximately 15 large wooden steamships from World War One lying near Aquia VA;



WWI steamship wreck near Aquia

- (d) map a possible Civil War canal boat near Quantico VA;
- (e) assess approximately 24 anomalies found while searching for the remains of vessels that were sunk in the Potomac in 1776; and
- (e) conduct at least one field school in low-visibility site mapping

IMH also services the *U-1105*, a German U-boat that surrendered in 1945 and was sunk in 1949 in the Potomac River in a Navy weapon test. The site is now an Historic Shipwreck Preserve and a NOAA Marine Protected Area owned by the US Navy and managed by MHT.

Other work in Maryland includes active support of MHT, Historic St. Mary's City, and the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum.

Virginia. We will also continue assessing the remains of a Civil War steamer at Quantico VA for the U.S. Marine Corps.

In 2011 we collaborated with MHT to survey Aquia Creek for evidence of the first amphibious battle of the Civil War, under a grant from the National Park Service. We also surveyed six tributaries of the lower Potomac under a grant from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources; and received the *Chairman's Award*

for Achievement in Historic Preservation from the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

In 2013 we assisted in a Phase I reconnaissance of shipwreck sites at City Point in the James River near Petersburg VA.

Delaware. In collaboration with the Archaeological Society of Delaware, IMH surveyed areas near Delaware City and Pea Patch Island in 2005, the harbor at New Castle in 2006, the inner harbor at Lewes in 2007 and 2009, and various wreck sites in 2012 and 2013. Future plans include mapping several large wrecks near Cape Henlopen.

New Jersey and Pennsylvania. We have an ongoing project to search for American and British warships that were sunk in the Delaware River during the British capture of Philadelphia in the autumn of 1777.

Florida. IMH supports the Lighthouse Archaeological Marine Program (LAMP) at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum in Florida. IMH helps LAMP conduct fieldwork for the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research and an annual, academically credited field school in underwater archaeology.



LAMP archaeologists using IMH's boat to raise a cannon from a 1782 wreck.

For the past several years LAMP's field school has focused on a shipwreck dated to January 1782. The site has yielded cannons, a bell, five "Brown Bess" muskets, British uniform buttons,

a flintlock pistol, kegs of nails, grindstones, and other diagnostic artifacts. The site may be one of the vessels that carried British troops and Loyalists from Charleston after the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown.

In 2014 LAMP and IMH searched for French vessels that wrecked in 1565 near St Augustine.

Georgia. While in transit from Maryland and Florida and back, IMH searches for historic sites in Georgia for the state's Department of Natural Resources.

Other work.

IMH projects have included the assessment of the submerged landscape and archaeological sites at Rainsford Island, Boston, Massachusetts, at Achill Beg Island, County Mayo, Ireland, and at Kingstown Harbour, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, underwater surveys in Dominica, Aruba and Curaçao, and laying oyster reef balls for the St Mary's River Watershed Association.

IMH has also assessed the submerged pre-historic landscape and evidence of Archaic or Early Woodland habitation off the coast of Maine; designed a museum exhibit on underwater archaeology for the Coastal Children's Museum in Rockland ME; conducted a sidescan survey of the *Polias*, a ferrocement ship that was built during WWI; and helped to map a wreck at Acadia National Park for the National Park Service. We also assess and help preserve aircraft wrecks in the Chesapeake for US Naval Air Station Patuxent River.

Special interests.

IMH includes several groups with specialized interests, including the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, and the World Wars in collaboration with Battle of the Atlantic Research and Expedition Group. The Chesapeake Bay holds sites from all those conflicts. Revolutionary War targets include up to 23 Loyalist vessels that were scuttled in the Potomac River in 1776, and the Maryland state

brig *Cato* and letter-of-marque *Hawke* that were chased ashore and burned on 22 January 1781.

We also provide hands-on training in remote sensing to interested members, and volunteer development opportunities in site surveying and boat handling.

Membership and funding.

IMH's Board of Directors includes four professional underwater archaeologists and two experienced avocationalists. IMH holds a federal tax exemption under § 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Membership in IMH is open to anyone interested in maritime history or underwater archaeology, and not only divers. We encourage members to become actively involved in diving, historical research, writing, public outreach, education, database management, and all other aspects of analyzing, documenting, and preserving our historic resources.

Funding for fieldwork has come from member dues, gifts, and grants from MHT, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the National Park Service, the University of New Hampshire, Historic Mount Vernon, the Archaeological Society of Delaware, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Swedish Colonial Society, and others.

Our schedule for 2015 is as follows

11-12 April:	rig buoy on U-1105
April – May	service and prepare boats
late May:	Roper to Florida
June to August:	Potomac sites, field school
early September:	Roper to Maryland
Sept - October	Potomac, Aquia, Quantico
31-October:	fetch U-1105 buoy
December:	finish reports; lay up boats for the winter

Project reports are posted on the IMH website, www.maritimehistory.org.

For information on projects or membership please visit our website, or write to IMH at PO Box 108, Tall Timbers MD 20690, or phone David Howe at 302-222-4721, or email him at David.Howe@MaritimeHistory.org.



IMH surveying off Mount Vernon



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IMH's boat carrying the LAMP field school