The Stephen B. Luce Library Presents

The New York Nautical School-Ship Saint Mary’s and the beginnings of Maritime College: An Exhibition from the Archives
Sloop-of-War *Saint Mary’s* Data

- Designed by Charles B. Brodie as a sloop of war.
- Construction began in 1843
- Built at the Washington Navy Yard
- Launched November 24, 1844
- 958 Tons
- 149’4” length
- 37’4” beam
- 17’ maximum draft
- Maximum provision for a 6 month cruise
- Sixteen 4 to 8 inch guns
- Initial cost to build: $180,000
- Given by the Navy to New York to establish the *New York Nautical School* which evolved into SUNY Maritime College
Sailing Qualities

Quotes by Commanders:

“...Sails, steers, and works well; is very easy on her spars, rigging and cables.”

“Sails indifferently well; steers easily, but rolls and works badly, and stands up well under canvass.”

“...remarkably Weatherly, and a fine sea boat.”

A Time Line of Sloop-of-War *Saint Mary’s*

- **1843** – Laid down for construction
- **1844** – Commissioned into the U.S. Navy
- **1845** – Served as a troop and diplomat transport
- **1846** – Saw first action in the Mexican war, taking as prize the schooner, *Pueblana*
- **1848** – Assigned to the Pacific station
- **1857** – Brought the freebooter, William Walker, into American custody out of Nicaragua
A Time Line of Sloop-of-War Saint Mary’s

- **1860** – Intervened in Panama during civil disturbance
- **1860-65** – Served on the Pacific station for the Union during the Civil War
- **1874** – Turned over to New York to serve as a Nautical School.
- **1875-1908** – Served as school ship
- **1908** – Scrapped
The original New York Nautical School served as a public grammar school for the City of New York. It would eventually be controlled by the state and evolve over time to SUNY Maritime College.
Admissions requirements in 1875:
- Boys over the age of 15
- Must show inclination for a life at sea
- Be of sound body
- Can do basic math, read, and write
- Original class size: 26
Learning Aboard School Ship *Saint Mary’s*

Students would learn all areas of seamanship including:

- How to navigate including using sextants and other instruments
- The furling and unfurling of sails
Learning Aboard School Ship Saint Mary’s

Students would learn all areas of seamanship including:

- Knots, ropes, and rigging
- How to keep a tidy ship
- How to oar and scull
On cruise, students would be instructed by naval personnel.

They would be visited by dignitaries inspecting the ship.

They would also have a little time for leisure.
By 1908, *Saint Mary’s* had grown obsolete. She was soon replaced by the steam-sail hybrid *Newport*. Despite the efforts of alumni of the Nautical School to convert her into a clubhouse/museum, she was sold and scrapped.
Last Days

“The Old Saint Mary’s” by an Anonymous Alumni

Our Boat was beached on a Boston shoal
Where the junkman slings his sledge.
Where her ribs were rent, and only her soul
Was left for her boys to pledge.

But yearly this phantom ship shall sail
On the mystic mere of mem’ries;
And whate’er betide, no man can fail
In his love for old St. Mary’s.