

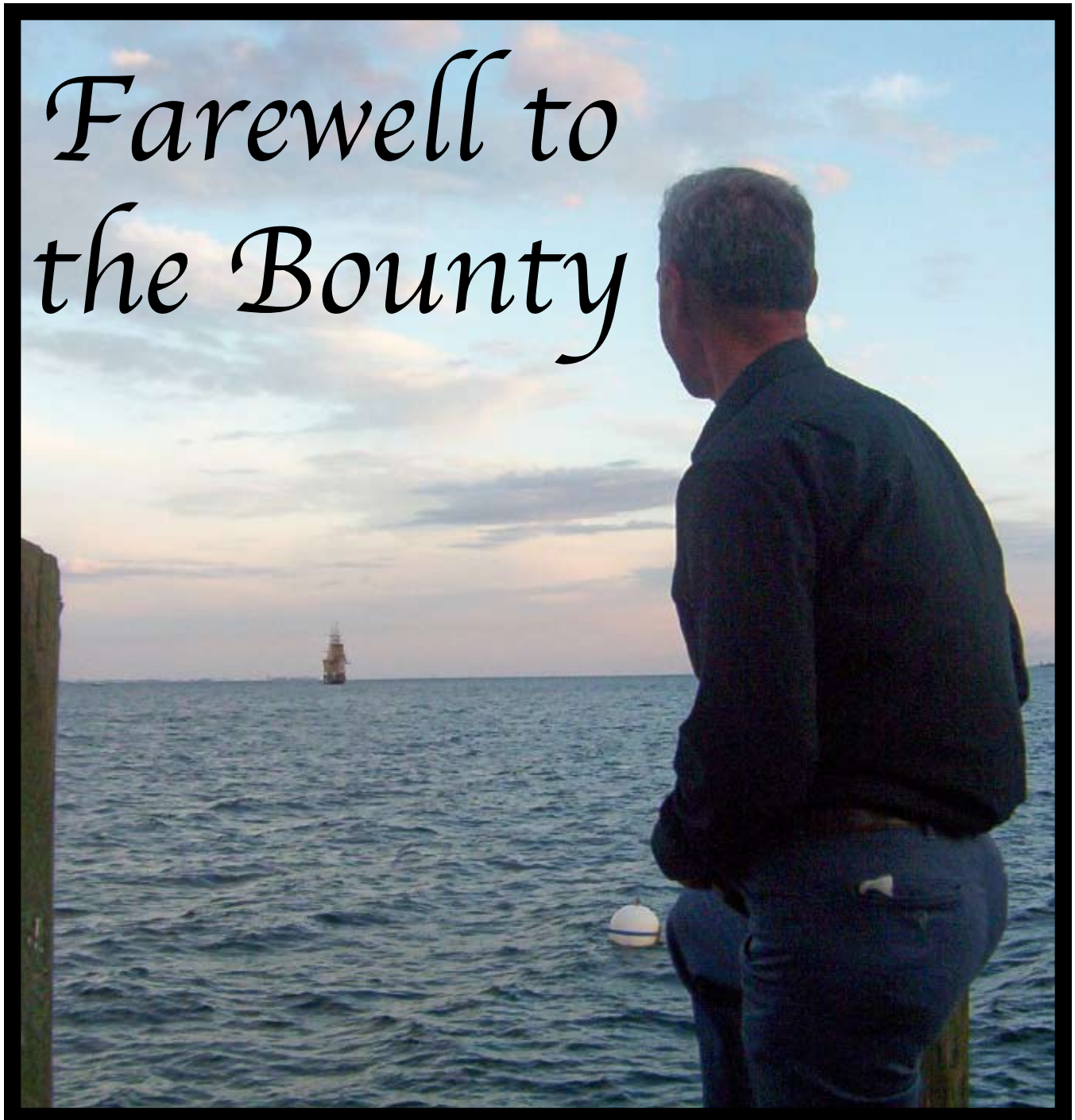
PITCAIRN ISLANDS STUDY GROUP PITCAIRN LOG

Vol. 40, No. 1

January - March 2013

Whole No. 158

Farewell to the Bounty



ISSN: 0888-675X



PITCAIRN LOG



Vol. 40, No. 1 -- Whole Number 158
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The Pitcairn Log is published in
January, April, July, and October.



It is the official publication of the
Pitcairn Islands Study Group,
which was founded in the U.S. in 1973.
American Philatelic Society Affiliate No. 46.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership is available in two categories: REGULAR and CONTRIBUTING. The fees are: REGULAR, \$20 per year in the U.S. and Canada and \$25 per year elsewhere; CONTRIBUTING, \$30 per year or more. The *Pitcairn Log* is sent First Class International to non-U.S. members and by Standard Class to U.S. members. An emailed pdf version is available for \$18 per year. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of PISG. Advertising is available at \$50 per full page, \$25 per half page, and \$15 per quarter page, per issue. Contact the Publications Editor for additional information.



President's Message

By Ted Cookson



I have some terrific news to announce with regard to Bounty-Pitcairn Conference 2012 ("BPC 2012"), which was held August 19-21, 2012 in Angwin, California. Over two dozen video clips totaling over 8.5 hours have been posted online at www.2012BPC.com. These include clips of each of the 15 speakers' talks; the two Skype Q & A sessions with Pitcairn Island; the opening and closing ceremonies; and several additional, duplicative clips which cover all of the singing that took place in Angwin and on the island during the video chats, etc. Five PowerPoint presentations are now available online, too, as well as over a dozen PDF and other supplementary documents. While not all of the anticipated documents have been posted, the overwhelming majority are now in place.

It is my hope that www.2012BPC.com will become an important online resource for Pitcairn and the Bounty Saga. Not only is it possible for those who attended the event to review what took place, but the augmented website also makes it possible for those who were unable to attend in person to do so now virtually online. Please refer to the "what's new" web page at www.2012BPC.com/whats-new.htm for a listing of the various website changes that have been made since BPC 2012 took place. One new feature is the BPC 2012 "store" web page at www.2012BPC.com/store.htm. This page lists the various books and other Pitcairn- and Bounty-related items such as covers and discs which are available for sale from the speakers and others.

In addition to developing the BPC 2012 website, it is also our intention to create a BPC 2012 DVD set for those who would prefer to digest the wealth of BPC 2012 material in that fashion rather than online. This will be sold by the Pitcairn Islands Study Center for the benefit of the Center. I will announce more about that project in due course.

There have been some important changes recently

within our U.K.-based affiliate, the former Pitcairn Islands Study Group (UK). On October 6, 2012 that organization's name was changed to the Pitcairn and Norfolk Islands Society; and, in case you were wondering, "P. N. I. Soc." has been designated as the official abbreviation. Also on that date, Paul Burnett became chairman, replacing Austin Meares, whose long and distinguished period of service to the U.K. group since 1988 will be a very difficult act to follow.

In spite of the name and personnel changes, our two boards have reiterated a common desire to continue our decades-long close cooperation. One way in which we cooperate is in the remaining of *The Pitcairn Log*. Twice a year our publication is bundled with theirs and remailed on from the U.K. to certain of those whose membership is common to both organizations. PISG members who are not familiar with the semi-annual P. N. I. Society London meetings and *The UK Log*, their superb semi-annual publication, are encouraged to visit www.pitcairnstudygroup.co.uk.

Our colleagues in the U.K. were also very supportive of BPC 2012. Not only did they give the largest single donation of £100, but the company of Treasurer Alan Fillmore was also enjoyed by all of us in Angwin. Yet another way our two groups are cooperating is in sales of the DVDs of the publications of our respective groups. Mail order fulfillment for both DVDs is kindly being handled by Treasurer Brad Brunsell in Massachusetts while the PISG publications DVD will be sold at the P. N. I. Society's semi-annual meetings in London along

Continued on page 4

Deadlines for the Log:

January issue: November 1

April issue: February 1

July issue: May 1

October issue: August 1

with their own DVD.

As I write this in the first week of November, we have already processed 17 orders for DVDs of *The Pitcairn Log* and *The UK Log*. I encourage all members to consider purchasing these fabulous DVDs, the profits from which go to the treasuries of the respective societies. Never will there be a better bargain. The PISG DVD contains an incredible 3,332 pages of *The Pitcairn Log* plus 206 bonus pages of monographs while the P. N. I. Society DVD contains a whopping 1,380 pages of *The UK Log* plus 76 bonus pages of monographs.

Each DVD is priced at only \$15 for members or \$25 for non-members. For instance, while a PISG DVD is \$15 for a PISG member, a P. N. I. Society DVD is \$25 for that same PISG member if he or she is not also a member of the P. N. I. Society, and vice-versa. While the price differential is designed to encourage membership, even at \$25 these DVDs are a steal, considering the wealth of Pitcairn-related material they contain. Full details are online on the home page of www.pisg.net, and there is a PDF order form available online at www.pisg.net/dvd.htm. Similar information and the same order form are also available on the P. N. I. Society website.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our hard-working officers, without whose efforts our society could not function: Treasurer Bradley W. Brunsell; Vice President Dr. Vernon Kisling, Jr.; Secretary Ed Morgan; and Publications Editor Dr. Everett L. Parker. In addition, we all owe a debt of gratitude to Immediate Past President Mark Butterline who not only created our very handsome and functional www.pisg.net website five years ago but who has continued to maintain it to this day. A volunteer is now sought to develop and serve as webmaster for a third-generation PISG website. Members interested in pursuing this interesting project are invited to contact me at tedcookson@gmail.com.

At least two PISG member volunteers are still sought to serve on a Nominating Committee. It is my duty under Article IV, Section 2 of the PISG bylaws to appoint such a committee, which is responsible for submitting to Secretary Ed Morgan the names of at least two nominees for each elective office, if pos-

sible, in conjunction with PISG's next bi-annual election in the spring of 2013. If interested in serving, please contact me. (In addition, any member in good standing may be placed in nomination by the signatures of at least five members, provided that such nomination reaches the committee no later than January 15, 2013.)

Similarly, at least two member volunteers are needed to serve on an Election Committee. It is my duty under Article IV, Section 3, Part 2 of the PISG bylaws to appoint such a committee, which is responsible for tallying the votes received via post and via email by June 1, 2013. If interested in serving, please contact me. Our bylaws specify that the treasurer's records should be audited on an annual basis. PISG requires a member with an accounting or financial background to undertake this task. If you would be willing to volunteer for this simple project, please contact me.

In closing, I'm certain that all PISG members were saddened to receive news of the sinking of HMAV *Bounty* replica in Hurricane Sandy on October 29, 2012. We express our sincere condolences to the families of Captain Robin Walbridge and crew member Claudene Christian, and we are most grateful for the heroic efforts of the United States Coast Guard in rescuing the surviving 14 crew members.

Take part in our auction!

Are you a collector of Pitcairn-related stamps, postal history and ephemera? Of course you are, you're a member of PISG! So why aren't you participating in our quarterly auction? There are many excellent items available in each auction, and there are always fabulous "buys."

And the auction helps keep the study group afloat. In the four auctions held during 2012, a total of \$1,362.83 in merchandise was sold, and \$396.36 in profit was made for the treasury. And it didn't all come from a 10 percent seller's fee and 10 percent buyer's fee -- several members generously donated material for the sale, including Raymond Ireson of Quebec, Herbert Ford of California, and Cy Kitching of the United Kingdom.

It's very simple to participate: just contact our editor, Everett Parker, if you have questions!

Well-known HMAV *Bounty* replica sunk in hurricane

Captain Robin Walbridge, Claudene Christian lost in disaster

The news was heart-wrenching for any fan of the HMAV *Bounty* replica: the ship had been lost at sea during Hurricane Sandy off the East Coast of the United States. Worse still, two of the crew, including the well-known captain, were claimed by the storm.

News of the disaster echoed through members of the Pitcairn Islands Study Group, many of whom had visited the ship at various ports over the years. The disaster occurred on Monday, October 29, 2012

North Carolina. A total of 14 people were plucked from the water by two Coast Guard helicopters. Unfortunately, both Captain Robin Walbridge and crew member Claudene Christian, a great-great-great-great-great-granddaughter of Fletcher Christian, were not among those who survived. Ms. Christian's body was later recovered, but Captain Walbridge's body was not found.

Ms. Christian, 42, of Oklahoma, was an established descendant of Fletcher Christian, who was a leader



This dramatic image shows the Bounty replica awash with waves off the North Carolina coast.

about 90 miles east of the North Carolina shore at about the center of the U.S. East Coast. The ship had left New Haven, Connecticut the previous weekend and was attempting to skirt around the hurricane. The vessel was headed south on its way to St. Petersburg, Florida, where a celebration was scheduled for later in November.

But heavy seas quickly took a toll on the vessel, built in Nova Scotia in 1960. A distress call was sent out as she began taking on water. The crew, wearing survival suits, abandoned ship at about 5 a.m. The U.S. Coast Guard, after being alerted to the distress call, arrived at about 6:30 a.m. from Cape Hatteras,

of the famous mutiny aboard the original British naval vessel, the HMAV *Bounty*.

In an interview with a Canadian news reporter when the *Bounty* was in Nova Scotia last summer for a Tall Ships festival, Claudene Christian said that she had wanted to be a crew member on the replica *Bounty* for a long time.

"It's incredible," she was quoted as saying. "I wasn't sure if they'd take me because I didn't have a sailing background, although I've been totally interested in it all my life. I just decided I was going to

Continued on page 6

apply for who I am, and they took me.” She talked about her deep pride in the ship and relished her family’s connection to the story of the HMAV *Bounty*. “I was at the helm the first week and said, ‘Captain, are you sure you’re comfortable having a Christian at the helm? I wasn’t sure if he got my joke.’” The Christians and Blighs have a reunion each year in England, “and that’s something I would love to attend,” Christian said. “We’re all good. We love the *Bounty* on both sides.”

Christian’s mother said the last contact with her daughter was on October 25, 2012, a day or so before the ves-



This aerial photograph from Barbara Holowaty shows the HMAV Bounty replica under full sail.



**Crew member
Claudene Christian**

Southern California, and was a former Miss Teen Alaska. Her aunt, Patricia Saulsberry, said Christian had taken an interest in tall ships when she toured replicas of the *Nina* and the *Pinta*. She had joined the crew of the HMAV *Bounty* in May.

Captain Robin Walbridge, 63, was a native of St. Petersburg, Florida, and had been the captain of the *Bounty* since 1995. He is described by *Bounty* crew members and on the ship’s website as a “quiet, self-effacing individual.” His dedication, restoration work and upkeep of the ship was described as “a labor of love.”

Well-known and respected in the nautical community, Walbridge himself said in interviews that aside from the *Bounty*, the highlight of his career was the

sel departed when she called to tell them that she loved them and that she wouldn’t be able to contact them from sea. Christian was a graduate of the University of

two years he spent training the crew of “Old Ironsides,” the U.S.S. *Constitution*, as guest captain and advisor.

What is not known is why the tall ship was sailing into the eye of the storm. Tracie Simonin, director of the HMS *Bounty* Organization LLC, said in a media statement that she had spoken with the *Bounty* by satellite phone at around 8:30 p.m. Sunday, and that the ship was “trying to steer clear” of Hurricane Sandy as it approached. But the ship started to take on water because pumps were not working properly, Simonin said.



Bounty Captain Robin Walbridge. Photograph by Dr. Santiago Wong.

Simonin herself contacted the Coast Guard when she lost radio contact -- with the last missive being that the ship was taking on two feet of water per hour. The rescue service in Portsmouth, New Hampshire later received a distress signal from the

Bounty, when its emergency beacon indicated its location.

One crew member, Douglas Faunt, said the ship literally sank beneath the crew, but they swam free and mostly got into two rafts. It is believed that both Christian and Captain Walbridge were washed overboard in 18-foot seas when they were attempting to abandon the ship.

The last posting by crew members from the *Bounty*

on the ship's Face-book page was at 2 p.m. on Sunday. It said simply, "Looks to be sailing thru the tail end of the rain storms." The last reported coordinates were at

N 34 degrees 22' W 074 degrees 15' with a speed of 10.3 knots.

An almost exact replica of the original, the ship was built for the 1962 filming of the Hollywood classic "Mutiny on the Bounty," starring Marlon Brando, but also featured the helm used in the 1935 movie starring Clark Gable.

Called "the world's most famous tall ship" in recent years, the *Bounty* made cameo appearances in a score of movies with modern cult followings from "Treasure Island" and "Spongebob Squarepants" to "Pirates of the Caribbean – Dead Man's Chest."

In April, the Hollywood icon celebrated the 223rd

anniversary of the notorious mutiny (April 26, 1789) at ceremonies in St. Augustine, Florida. A special celebration of the anniversary brought fans and tall ship enthusiasts from around the world to America's oldest city.

The vessel was commissioned from the shipwrights of Smith and Ruhland in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia in 1960. Completely seaworthy and built just the way it would have been 200 years before, the new *Bounty* was constructed from the original ship's drawings

still on file in the British Admiralty archives.

After filming and a world-wide promotional tour, MGM berthed the ship in St. Petersburg, Florida as a permanent

tourist attraction. The vessel remained there until the mid-1980s. In 1986 Ted Turner acquired the MGM film library and the *Bounty* with it. He used it to promote his enterprises, and filmed "Treasure Island" with Charlton Heston in 1989.

In 1993, Turner donated the ship to the Fall River Chamber Foundation, which established the Tall Ship Bounty Foundation to operate the ship as an educational venture.

By the early 2000s, the *Bounty* was in need of repairs. The initial re-fit came soon after Robert Hansen purchased her in February of 2001. From her former home in Fall River, Massachusetts, Mr. Han-



This impressive view of the HMAV Bounty replica sailing near the Golden Gate Bridge in California was taken by Barbara Holowaty.

sen, along with the captain, Robin Walbridge, had what became the daunting task of finding a shipyard with the size and resources to do the necessary repairs. The first two attempts at finding a suitable yard proved unsuccessful for one reason or another.



Unless salvaged, this iconic masthead is now lost. Photo by Barbara Holowaty.

Finally, the two worked out an arrangement with Sample's Shipyard in coastal Maine. However, getting *Bounty* there from Fall River turned out to be an adventure in and of itself.

The Friday prior to its scheduled departure for Maine, the ship was being kept afloat by a cadre of pumps. Going from bad to much worse, that night there was an accident in Fall River that brought down an electrical pole, resulting in a

power outage. Like a beating heart that just gives out, the pumps keeping *Bounty* alive fell silent.

"The man hired to watch the boat called me at about 10:00 p.m., frantic, explaining we'd lost power and *Bounty* was sinking," Robert Hansen recalls. "Needless to say, we had to move fast."

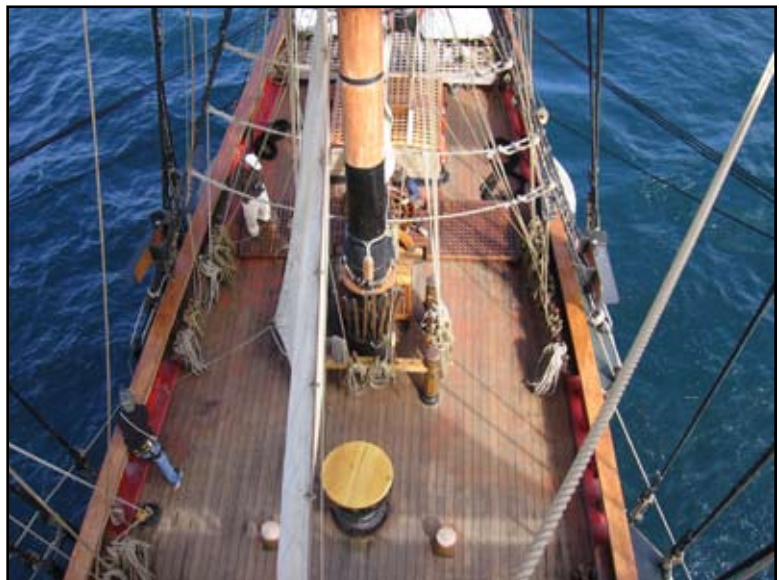
Fast thinking and quick action saved her from going down. "We were able to get some big emergency pumps on board to keep up with the leaking," said Hansen. "But it was very close. *Bounty* had almost six feet of water in her, and was within inches of going down."

The plan had been for the ship to motor up to Maine for re-fitting under its own power, but the leaking was too severe. After visits from the local

Coast Guard unit, police, and the fire department, Robert Hansen received a letter from the Fall River Port Captain that forbade them to leave.

"We had to come up with a whole new plan," Hansen said. "We ended up having to tow her up there with all kinds of emergency pumping ... six huge diesel pumps with enough pumping capacity to handle a quarter-of-a-million gallons an hour. The final tow cost was around \$15,000. Actually, we thought it would be a lot more, because the tow ship estimated it would take around 60 hours, as nobody knew for sure how well she'd hold together. But, as it turned out, once she started moving, she stopped leaking. We wound up running on one pump, on idle speed. Once in motion, she actually swelled up better and stopped leaking, and we made it to Boothbay Harbor some 20 hours earlier than anticipated."

Upon arrival, the ship was soon put up on the rails. The plan had been solely to finish what had been started on the hull. A portion of it had already been re-done during its time at Fall River. But once they pulled it out of the water it was painfully clear that practically everything from the waterline on down had to be replaced. So *Bounty* received a complete "down-under" overhaul, including a brand new bottom, virtually all new frames, new running gear,



A view of the deck of the HMAV Bounty replica. Photograph by Barbara Holowaty.

engines, drives, props, fuel and water tanks...everything. Roughly one year later, *Bounty* was back in



A view into the rigging of the HMAV Bounty replica. Photo by Barbara Holowaty.

the able hands of Hansen and Walbridge, and ready for new adventures.

The HMS Bounty Organization LLC was dedicated to keeping the ship sailing and using her as a vehicle for teaching the nearly lost arts of square rigged sailing and seamanship. The organization operated a variety of programs on board including sail training programs for the general public, group leadership and teamwork training, a Sail Away Summer Camp program, and dockside educational programs for elementary and secondary school children.

As noted earlier, *Bounty* had spent some time before the camera during her ownership by Ted Turner. But in 2005, she received a call to play a featured role in the highly-anticipated sequel “Pirates of the Caribbean II: Dead Man’s Chest.” The film was being produced by Disney, and would require *Bounty* to be re-fitted again, this time to take on the guise of a genuine 18th-century British vessel.

They had *Bounty* brought to Bayou-La-Batre, Alabama in the winter of 2005, to the same shipyard

where the *Black Pearl* herself was built. The site was chosen both for its highly-skilled crews and sheer size. As Captain Walbridge observed, “They could do everything there, and on three ships at once.”

For her new role, *Bounty* had to have all her standing rigging (rigging which holds up the mast) replaced and changed out, including all the lower standing rigging. Additionally, her running rigging (the lines used to haul in the sails and brace the arch) had to be completely replaced as well. With Disney footing the bill and the talents at the Alabama shipyard, the transformation was completed in months. To anyone who saw her, *Bounty* now appeared to be an authentic merchant ship from the 1700s. However, the materials employed were definitely late-20th century.

Lastly, but certainly not least, she also was equipped with a couple of new spars, and new sails (nine altogether). Re-rigged, and now sporting a genuine merchant-ship countenance, *Bounty* performed admirably before the Disney cameras. When filming was over, the plan was for her to take a trip up the Mississippi. Hurricane Katrina changed all that. The devastation left in the wake of Katrina made it impossible to embark north on the Mississippi River. As a result, *Bounty* instead headed for St. Petersburg, Florida and proceeded on a tour up the

Continued on page 10

PITCAIRN TRIVIA

By Barbara Kuchau

1. Who is known as the “father” of wireless communication from Pitcairn?
2. When Christian and the other mutineers arrived at Pitcairn, what evidence of previous human settlers was found?
3. Who was the islander who had been in the American hospital in Balboa, Canal Zone, from April 21 to July 20, 1963, where he had undergone two serious operations?

If you’re stumped, find the answers on page 15!



East Coast. When that concluded, the ship was without plans, as the Mississippi trip would have taken considerably longer. However, the cancellation also opened other “waterways” for the classic tall ship. It meant there was time to put *Bounty* in for a third re-fitting, which would completely finish her “overhaul,” and it made the ethereal concept of a return voyage to Tahiti a feasible reality. So it was back to Boothbay Harbor, Maine. The final re-fitting operation would be an expansive one, from the water line up, and expensive as well. Basically, *Bounty* would receive a new deck -- with new planks and frames -- and a completely re-designed, re-built interior.

While plans as of mid-November were still in the works, it is possible there will be a salvage attempt made if the *Bounty* can be located on the sea floor. Robert Hansen said he had contracted with the necessary vessels to make a recovery if it is feasible.

Information for this article came in part from the HMS Bounty Organization LLC and is used with permission. Much additional information was gathered on deadline by Barbara Kuchau, without whose help this tribute would not have been possible.

The cover photograph of Tom Christian watching the departing Bounty was taken by Barbara Kuchau.

Meralda Warren creates new Tapa

Meralda Warren of Pitcairn has created a unique new Tapa titled "The Women of the Bounty." It is made from Aute bark and measures 790 mm tall by 460 mm wide.

"The plants grow next to our house, and I cultivated, collected and processed the bark, pounding the piece using a specially carved pounder made from wood called an "Eei." The Tapa depicts all 12 of the *Bounty* women at work. Meralda described it this way: "Two in the left background are having a discussion, a very pregnant one (is) watching another fish, another one kneeling by an ometti (wooden) dish preparing food, one in the right hand background watching the approach of the *Bounty*, in the middle, a woman scaling fish, next to her a woman kneading dough. In the foreground four women coming to help and another one laying on banana leaves watching.

"As I was making this piece I kept thinking of my Ahu Sistas, for without them searching for information on their *Bounty* roots, the discovery of our fore-mothers' Tapa in the different museums (especially British Museum), we would not have found each other and revive the art of making Tapa on Pitcairn."

The Tapa is for sale. You may contact Meralda

Warren by email at maimiti@pitcairn.pn for ordering information. Her website is: <http://www.meraldaonpitcairn.com/>.



This unique Tapa was created by Meralda Warren and is titled "The Women of the Bounty."



Meralda Warren and her mom, Mavis Warren.

Pitcairn Island and the Bounty Saga - Institutions and Monuments: A Worldwide List of Related Archives, Churches, Gardens, Houses, Libraries, Monuments, Museums and Ships

by Ted Cookson

The "preview edition" of this clickable 50-page monograph on CD in PDF format reveals where 101 Pitcairn- and *Bounty*-related monuments, manuscripts and artifacts may be viewed in 12

U. S. states and more than 12

foreign countries. A sample

and pricing details are online at

WWW.EPTOURS.COM/CD.HTM.

To order your CD, email

TEDCOOKSON@GMAIL.COM

or post funds to Ted Cookson, 3501 Keyser Ave, Villa 38, Hollywood, FL 33021-2402 USA.

US\$6 USA, US\$7 Canada, US\$8 Rest of world.

PayPal accepted with no surcharge.



Connections to the *Bounty* replica are many

My connections to the loss of *Bounty II* and the death of Claudene Christian and Captain Robin Walbridge has ripped my heart and scared my soul.

My first knowledge of *Bounty II* came when I went to see "Mutiny on the Bounty" way back in 1962 at the Florida Theater in Tampa, Florida, on a week day. Admission was \$1.25 and this allowed me to view the movie three times in one day. At one showing, I was the only person in the audience. It was an exciting event for me, a country girl from the hills of West Virginia. My first sight of the *Bounty*, the music, the beauty of Tahiti and, of course, the story, all became a part of me that day and will never leave me. When the *Bounty* replica came to winter in St. Petersburg, I was there to see her as she was in the movie and have a photo of myself at the helm.

Before the Internet, it was not easy to keep up with *Bounty* and Pitcairn. Our local libraries only had the Nordhoff and Hall books. One day I was ill with a cold and missed a day's work -- very unusual for me. It just so happened that the Art Linkletter Show announced there was a very special guest from Pitcairn Island in the audience. It was Parkin Christian. Art went into the audience and had Parkin (who was a large man and in great physical condition), stand up and proceeded to tell the audience about himself and his connection to *Bounty* and about Pitcairn. I consider this one of the most important events in my life.

The next day, I was at the library and asking assistance from the reference librarians (none knew about Pitcairn) and trying to glean as much information as possible. I even went to a travel agency and got brochures on Tahiti (which I still have). Within two days, I had typed out a letter to Parkin Christian (I still have the carbon of it) and mailed it. Approximately six months later, I received a reply from Parkin. We exchanged a number of letters and at one point I was convinced I wanted to go to Pitcairn to live. Parkin offered to be my sponsor and brought the idea to the Island Council. I was approved to go and become a part of Pitcairn. THEN ...I went to

apply for a passport and discovered that to travel to Pitcairn I would need a series of inoculations. My plans stopped there. I have had a life long fear of needles; so much so that I also turned down being accepted as a VISTA Volunteer.

Then, in 1999, I was introduced to the Internet. And THAT did it. I found Paul Lareau's excellent site. With Paul Lareau's blessing and help, I set up the FRIENDS of PITCAIRN list at Yahoo! in May 2000. We currently have 1,788 members. Our focus was on all things Pitcairn and *Bounty*. Over the years we began discussing a "getting together" or a conference. With a lot of hard work and planning and just pure luck, Bounty-Pitcairn Conference

2005 happened. The event took place at The Pier in St. Petersburg, Florida (where *Bounty* spent most of her winters). And because of a cancelled trip up the

Flotsam and Jetsam

By Barbara Kuchau

email: PISGmember@yahoo.com



Mississippi River (due to flooding), *Bounty* was on her way back north and stopped over in St. Petersburg for a few days. Margaret Ramsey (Bounty Executive Director) and Captain Robin Walbridge hosted a reception on board *Bounty* for the attendees. (See www.BKuchau.com).

The following day, June 23, the opening day of the conference, Margaret Ramsey and Captain Walbridge kindly told the attendees about *Bounty* and the Tall Ship Bounty Organization. The audience was most receptive to all information shared and kept asking for more. Captain Robin's vast knowledge of sailing and his love for *Bounty* was very apparent.

We gathered that evening to see *Bounty* set sail. The sky was overcast and a storm was moving in, but as she began to pull away from the dock and the attendees (we had Pitcairn Islanders in attendance) were singing the "Pitcairn Goodbye Song," the clouds parted and blue sky showed through the clouds as *Bounty* sailed off into the evening. With a rainbow in the sky, a group of people on the dock were wiping away tears knowing that they had taken part in a most memorable event. For me, *Bounty* was an every day happening. I checked out her official website almost daily and shared news about

where she was going and the events she would participate in, encouraging everyone to go and see her and experience the unique experience of being on a beloved tall ship.

My next direct experience with *Bounty* was in April 2012. My husband, Erhard Kuchau, had died in June 2011. When I learned that *Bounty* would be stopping at St. Augustine, Florida, which is only 100 miles from me, I realized that this would be an excellent opportunity to pay proper tribute to my husband. He was a German seaman, and he did not wish to have a funeral.

I contacted the *Bounty* office and they agreed to accept some of my husband's ashes in St. Augustine and would place them in the Atlantic. I was unable to deliver the ashes myself so this was difficult for me. On May 3, 2012 outside of Savannah, Georgia, *Bounty* was in the shipping lanes and at 11 a.m., a special service was conducted for my husband. The crew was in attendance. I had placed his ashes in a basket woven on Pitcairn with one of his *Bounty* shirts, a photo of our dog, some soil from our property and a lock of my hair. The ceremony was organized by Doug Faunt and it surpassed anything I could hope for. A young crew member climbed down the side of *Bounty* and lovingly placed the basket in the waters of the Atlantic. The crew had woven wreaths made of rope. Photos are at www.findagrave.com and then search for Kuchau.

My last connection to *Bounty* was on June 29, 2012 when *Bounty* was in Port Jefferson, New York. My dear friends Rosalie and Santiago Wong knew how disappointed I was not to get to personally deliver my husband's ashes in St. Augustine. So they made a trip to visit *Bounty* in Port Jefferson. They were looking at copies of the ceremony I had sent them and Doug walked up to them and introduced himself and told them about his contributions to Erhard's ceremony. Rosalie wrote, Doug was the "person who was responsible in the preparations for Erhard's ceremony and with Capt. Robin who was overall in charge of the event. They remember you very well and they were honored to perform the service for you and Erhard. It was a very moving experience for the whole crew."

October 29, 2012 was the day the *Bounty* sank

beneath massive waves off the coast of Cape Hatteras. I learned of the tragedy on Facebook and actually had my breath taken away by the impact of the news and when I saw the U.S. Coast Guard's two photos of *Bounty*. My first reaction was to let some of my United Kingdom friends who do not have Internet access know the news. My first call was to Joy Allward. The first thing she said to me



***Captain Robin Walbridge (center) is shown with Doug Faunt and Rosalie Wong. It was taken June 29, 2012.
Photograph by Dr. Santiago Wong.***

was, "Maurice would be in tears." I then phoned Peter Logan and sent an email to Roger Bedingfield. All were in disbelief.

When it was finally confirmed that 14 of the crew of 16 were safe and that Claudene Christian had been rescued and taken to a local hospital where she was pronounced dead and that Captain Robin Walbridge was missing, I once again phoned my friends.

Joy shared with me a strange occurrence that happened that day. She had gone out and when she returned home, she found a heavy shelf that had been hanging in the same place for 30 years (wedged on top of a radiator) had come crashing down and landed on top of four photos with glass and a Chinese vase which had been on the shelf. To her surprise, none of the items were broken or even chipped. She was amazed. She said, "That this has been the oddest thing I have ever known."

And now you have some idea of what *Bounty* and the *Bounty* family means to me.

Did you ever notice this oddity on 1957 cover?



The illustration above is of a fairly common first day cover (unaddressed) for Pitcairn's Second Definitive Series, issued on July 2, 1957. Nothing unusual about the cover, which also bears a cachet in blue showing the HMAV *Bounty* with Pitcairn in the background. The cachet is Parker's Type 14b, and this date is the first known use of the cachet. Still nothing unusual. The cover bears the Kitching Type 2.4 circular date stamp. Nothing unusual. The cover is unaddressed because it may have been sold to a passenger on a visiting ship. Not unusual.



***Enlargement of "normal"
"JY 2 57" date slug.***



***Enlargement of date stamp
on cover shown above.
Notice the "2" of "JY 2" is
inverted.***

But what IS unusual is found within the date stamp. Look closely and you'll see the "2" in the date slug is inverted (see enlargement at right). Likely many of us have not noticed that before; in fact, your editor didn't spot it, even though two examples have resided in his collection for years. It took the eagle eye of Jimmy Brill to make note of the inverted slug in correspondence some time ago.

So what happened? It's easy to invert a date slug because the dates are "upside down" in placing them in a date stamp. Usually, a person changing date slugs will ink the date stamp after inserting the appropriate slug(s) and apply an impression or strike on a piece of paper to be certain the numbers or letters are correctly positioned. In this instance, that apparently did not happen. It would be likely stamps on this cover (and perhaps many other covers as well) were cancelled before the error was discovered. Just how many were so cancelled before the error was found is unknown. What would really be interesting would be finding a cover that we might call "transitional" ... the inverted date slug on some strikes and the correct date slug on others!



Treasurer's Report

By Bradley W. Brunsell



Once again, it is my annual privilege to report a listing of our joining and renewing members who did so as CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS. In semi-chronological, semi-alphabetical order, we wish to acknowledge and thank Ralph M. Anderson, Carolyn S. Ash, Mark H. Bloch, James E. Brill, Mitchell F. Bunkin, Donald L. Burns, William D. Chisolm, Paul J. Domenici, Dale E. Frye, Walter A. Galazka, Terrence M. Gamble, Earl C. Gerheim, Lars-Ake Gothesson, Eliot M. Gregos, Dr. Stephen M. Heath, G. Robert Houston, James E. Janssen, Vernon N. Kisling, Barbara J. Kuchau, V. Peter V.R. Mason, Edward C. Morgan, Thomas R. Murphy, Brent J. Pargagan, John R. Palko, Michael B. Sawyer, Clifford L. Sayre, Allen E. Stacho, Kenneth E. Stewart, Eva Wahlroos, and John M. Young.

Also, Doug Bruckner, Jean Ann Capozzi, Dana K. Davidson, Herbert Fantle, Laurence R. Fusselman, Ralph R. Godwin, David W. Henson, Raymond W. Ireson, Robert A. Johnston, Robert G. Kappel, Christopher Kimonides, Dr. Frederick A. Laubscher, Jim Lennard, Col. Richard W. Morain, Thomas E. Moseley, J. Kent Rinehart, Mr. & Mrs. Richard H. Roser, George M. Speirs, and Rev. Dr. Nelson A.L. Weller.

In addition, we would also like to thank several

members and a few non-members who made donations to the Bounty-Pitcairn Conference held in California this past August. In order of receipt, we applaud Klaas J. Pikkert, Alice F. Southworth, Harold J. Lyle, Anne S. McFarland, and G. M. Cople. We extend our thanks and gratitude to all the foregoing friends and members. If any donor's name was inadvertently omitted from the above lists, kindly notify the Treasurer and we will rectify our oversight!

Please check the expiration date on this *Log* envelope. If it reads (12), this will be your final issue of the *Log* unless we hear from you pronto. To avoid a lapse in your membership and an interruption in the delivery of your future journals, kindly remit your dues (\$20 USA/Canada; \$25 rest of the world) as soon as possible. Thanks for your cooperation in this important matter! From all of us here at headquarters, Happy Holidays and may 2013 be the best ever!

PITCAIRN TRIVIA ANSWERS

By Barbara Kuchau

1. F. A. Hemming, Master of the steamship *Rimutaka II*, is known as the "father" of wireless communication from Pitcairn. He gave a card with Morse Code on it as a gift to Island Magistrate Fred Christian.

2. The mutineers found roughly hewn stone gods still guarding sacred sites; carved in the cliff faces were representations of animals and men; burial sites yielding human skeletons; and there were earth ovens, stone adzes, gouges and other artifacts of Polynesian workmanship.

3. The islander who was in the American Hospital in the Canal Zone was Floyd McCoy, fourth direct descendant of William H. McCoy of the HMAV *Bounty*. He died in his home on Pitcairn September 15, 1963.

Bounty Anchor Award Winners

In 2001, the Board of Directors of the Pitcairn Islands Study Group (PISG) created an award designed to recognize and applaud outstanding service to the study group. The award is not necessarily made annually. Following is a list of award winners to date.

Mr. Bradley W. Brunsell, 2001

Mrs. Anne A. Hughes, 2002

Mr. Ralph Badagliacca, 2003

Miss Jennifer Toombs, 2004

Dr. Everett L. Parker, 2006

Mr. Cy Kitching, 2009

Mr. Bernie Reilander, 2011

Mr. Herbert Ford, 2012



New Issues

Information provided by the Pitcairn Islands Philatelic Bureau



The Fluted Giant Clam

The Fluted Giant Clam, *Tridacna squamosa*, is one of a number of large clam species native to the shallow coral reefs of the South Pacific and Indian Oceans. It is distinguished by the presence of large leaf-like fluted edges on its shell called “scutes” which are often used as shelter by organisms such as small crabs, clams and other invertebrates. Normal coloration of the mantle ranges from browns and purples to greens,



blues and yellows, which are arranged in elongated linear or spot-like patterns. The two-part shell has five to six rows of deep open flutes on the valves. The wavy shell opening faces the sunlight, while the hinged side is firmly attached to rocks or coral rubble in relatively shallow water near living reefs.

The clam grows to around 40 cms in length and feeds on algae and phytoplankton for its nutrition. By day the clam spreads out its mantle tissue to act as a habitat for the algae to receive the sunlight they need to photosynthesize. *Tridacna squamosa* does not harm other organ-

isms and despite its ability to shut completely, it faces danger from anemones, trigger-fish and puffers which are its natural predators. Man has always valued the clam for food, decoration and aquarium trade and it is this danger which is the more serious, so this beautifully sculptured giant clam is more often seen in undisturbed environments near living reefs.

Even though it is a popular food item and its shell is sought after for decorative purposes, the fluted giant clam is being carefully monitored and is currently listed as Lower Risk/Conservation Dependent in the 2004 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

In the Pitcairn Group, the CITES classification lists the clam as of low concern. At present it is not under threat, especially in places like Singapore, Tonga and Vietnam. Large specimens are becoming less frequent and young specimens are only occasionally seen.

Charles Dickens anniversary

Charles John Huffam Dickens (1812-1870) was an English writer and social critic who is generally regarded as one of the world's greatest novelists and the creator of some of the world's most memorable fictional characters. During his lifetime Dickens's works enjoyed unprecedented popularity and fame, and by the 20th century, his literary genius was fully recognized by critics and scholars. His novels and short stories continue to enjoy an enduring popularity among the reading public.

Most of Dickens's major novels were first written in monthly or weekly installments in journals, making them cheap and accessible before being reprinted in book form. Dickens's gift for caricature was his forte and he worked intensively on developing arresting names for his characters that would reverberate with associations for his readers. Dickens frequently drew portraits of characters from people he had known in real life. His characters were often so memorable that they took on a life of their own outside his books.

Born in Portsmouth, England, the second of eight children, Dickens left school to work in a factory after his father was thrown into debtors' prison. Though he had little formal education, his early impoverishment drove him to succeed. Factory work, prison visits and many other “life” experiences including working in a law firm, all influenced his later writings. From 1833

FLUTED GIANT CLAM COLLECTOR NOTES

Designer:	Sue Wickison, Wellington, N.Z.
Printer	Southern Colour Print, Dunedin, N.Z.
Process:	Offset Litho
Stamp Size:	35.0mm x 29.4mm
Sheet Format:	2 x sets of 4 horizontal stamps.
Perforation:	14.40 x 14.615
Denominations:	20¢, \$1.00, \$2.10, \$3.00
Paper:	104gsm Tullis Russell non-phosphor stamp paper
Period of Sale:	October 31, 2012, for two years.

he edited a weekly journal for 20 years, wrote 15 novels and hundreds of short stories and non-fiction articles, lectured and performed extensively, and campaigned vigorously for children's rights, education, and other social reforms.

In 1836 he married Catherine Hogarth whom he travelled with to the U.S. in

1842, Italy (1844) and Switzerland (1846). It was here he began work on *Dombey and Son* (1846-48) and this and *David Copperfield* (1849-50) mark a significant artistic break in Dickens's career as his novels became more serious in theme and more carefully planned, than his early works.

In 1857 Dickens fell in love with an actress, Ellen Ternan, which was to last the rest of his life. Dickens was 45 and Ternan 18 when he made the decision, which went strongly against Victorian convention, to separate from his wife. Divorce in this time was still unthinkable for someone as famous as he was.

On June 8, 1870, Dickens suffered a stroke at his home. He never regained consciousness, and died the next day. Contrary to his wish to be buried at Rochester Cathedral "in an inexpensive, unostentatious, and strictly private

manner," he was laid to rest in the Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey. A printed epitaph circulated at the time of the funeral reads: "To the Memory of Charles Dickens (England's most popular author) who died at his residence, Higham, near Rochester, Kent, 9 June 1870, aged

58 years. He was a sympathizer with the poor, the suffering, and the oppressed; and by his death,

one of England's greatest writers is lost to the world." The stamps were to go on sale on December 5, 2012 for a period of two years.



DICKENS COLLECTOR NOTES

Designer:	Denise Durkin, Wellington, N.Z.
Printer	Southern Colour Print, Dunedin, N.Z.
Process:	Offset Litho
Stamp Size:	36.90 mm x 37.5 mm
Sheet Format:	2 panes of 15 stamps with gutter.
Perforation:	14.40 x 14.615
Denominations:	\$1.00, \$1.80, \$2.10, \$3.00
Paper:	104gsm Tullis Russell yellow-green phosphor gummed paper
Period of Sale:	December 5, 2012, for two years.

A discussion of linguistics featured 25 years ago

A discussion of Pitcairn's linguistics was one of the featured articles in the *Pitcairn Log* 25 years ago (Vol. 15, No. 2). Author Anders Kallgard of Sweden showed that while people in his country speak Swedish, people in Germany use German, and people in England speak English, it's a different logic among some South Pacific islands. As example, in Tokelau, the inhabitants speak Tokelauan, one of the world's very few languages without the sound "s." Yet the language contains the letter "s."

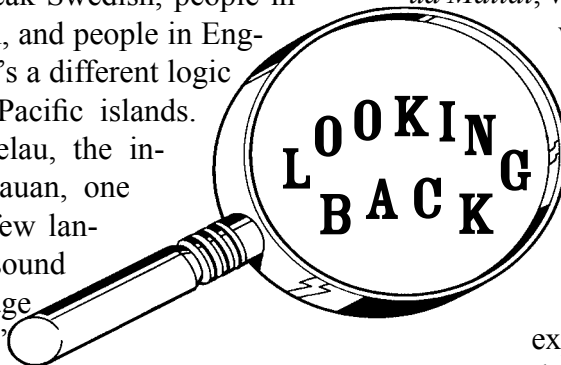
The same applies to Pitcairn, he said, where a creole language is used locally if not all the time.

Also, Tom Silver, our Study Circle Coordinator at the time, was seeking input on several study circles, including family trees, ship visits, postal rates,

post cards, and a *Log* index. Rev. David Ward of the United Kingdom discussed his collection of *Pitcairn Miscellany* newspapers, and there was news that as of September 2, 1987, a new vessel, the *Fenua Maitai*, was to set sail for the South Pacific. This vessel would operate on a regular passenger and cargo service to Pitcairn Island from Rarotonga and Tahiti.

An interesting letter from Richard Edgar Christian to a correspondent in Pennsylvania in 1937 was discussed in an article by James V. McNamara, and Tristan Brittain of the United Kingdom explained an interesting find he made at

a stamp show involving covers sent to relatives of Fletcher Christian. The Commonwealth Stamp Company of Toronto was advertising new issues of the Trees II set at \$4.10, and Air Drop covers at \$10 to \$15 each.



Whatzit?

Here's an opportunity for members to offer their expertise and also play detective. There are many unanswered questions about Pitcairn philately, particularly postal history. Countless strange and unusual pieces of postal history exist, and often they defy logical explanation. Or do they? Here is your chance to provide an answer or at least an opinion to help your fellow researchers. Send scans of your "problem covers" or unanswered questions to the editor at eparker@hughes.net, or by snail mail to the address on page 2. Please direct your answers or opinions to the editor.



Your editor picked up this 1955 cover on an eBay auction. It's not worth much money, but it's interesting in that it features the Parker Type 15 cachet in blue-green. It was obviously sent within Australia (the postmark is "PAR--- MATTA, New South Wales").

Can anyone speculate why a Pitcairn cover with cachet was mailed within Australia?

Electronic mail addresses of our membership

If you would like to be listed here, please email the editor (eparker@hughes.net).

To protect privacy, we do not automatically list your email address without permission.

We used to have about 100 members listed -- let us add you today -- no charge!

Art Ackley: ack19@aol.com

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Harry Alderman: harryalderman@talktalk.net

Jimmy Brill: JEB Brill@aol.com

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Gerard York: gerard_york@msn.com

Steve Zirinsky: szirinsky@cs.com



Secretary's Report

By Ed Morgan



NEW MEMBERS

#1613 **LARRY TAYLOR STAMPS**, 809 Olive Way #2204, Seattle, WA 96101-1999 USA

#1614 **WILLIAM DIENNA**, 208 N. Wayne Ave., Apt. 9A, Wayne, PA 19087-3261 USA

ADDRESS CHANGE

Cal Barton, 1910 East Southeast Loop, PMB 315, Tyler, TX 75701-8337 USA

REINSTATED

Mr. Harley M. Harder, #1163

DECEASED

Mr. Charles Blockston #1491

Mr. Richard J. Lehmann #891

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Membership as of September 1, 2012: **315**

New Members during the quarter: **2**

Reinstatements during the quarter: **1**

Loss (Resignations): **0**

Loss: (Deaths): **2**

Non-renewal of dues: **0**

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, December 1, 2012:
316

THE CLASSIFIEDS

This space is provided free of charge to members who wish to buy, sell, or exchange items. Ads will run for four issues unless otherwise specified, and can be rerun.

FOR SALE

I have the following for sale: *Atlas of the Pitcairn Islands* (extended version) \$18 + \$2 postage in U.S. *Pitcairn Islands 19th Century Mail* (extended version, to 2010) \$12 plus \$2 postage in U.S. Overseas postage is \$8. Steve Pendleton, 3006 Mary Avenue West, Visalia, CA 93277 (4-13)

Special for PISG members: you may take a 10% discount on the following titles: *Influence of Canal Zone and Marconi on Pitcairn Island*, \$34; *Inside the Pitcairn Family, 1928-1938*, \$75; *44 Roy P. Clark Letters from Pitcairn Island, 1966-99*, \$40; *Pitcairn Island of the South Pacific (Bonus)*, \$35. Postage extra on foreign orders. Capt. Julius Grigore, Jr., (USN Ret.) 425 Harbor Dr. South, Venice, FL 34295 (4-13)

For sale: 26 books on Pitcairn, the mutiny, and Norfolk; 1 booklet; 1 stamp catalog; 3 general interest mutiny books, 5 *National Geographic* magazines (1957-1985) with articles on Pitcairn, Norfolk and the *Bounty*. Price, \$700. Contact Hugh Wesley for complete list. (978) 922-8772 or email to kwesley42@yahoo.com. (4-13)

Fishes of the Pitcairn Islands Including Local Names and Fishing Methods is a new book by Lars-Ake Goteson presenting 380 exotic fish species in 209 genera and 76 families found in the Pitcairn Islands. For the first time, a comprehensive presentation of the fish fauna of

the Pitcairn group is available in book form, 354 pages. Price is \$41 + \$25 postage to U.S. Contact Lars-Ake Goteson by email at tott1@hotmail.com or books-on-demand at www.books-on-demand.com. (4-13)

Travel to Pitcairn Island on a thousand ships or more in the book *Pitcairn Island as a Port of Call*, the second, edited, enlarged edition of Herbert Ford's *Pitcairn - Port of Call*. Here is Pitcairn history as you've likely never read it before: shipwreck, romance, tidal waves, Pitcairner seamanship -- even murder! This \$75 McFarland Company book is available from the Pitcairn Islands Study Center, 1 Angwin Ave., Angwin, CA 94508 for \$55 plus postage. If interested, write to Herbert Ford at hford@puc.edu, or at the mail address given. (4-13)

WANTED

PI covers with cachet Types 4, 12, 13 and 88 (as per PISG Printed Cachet Catalog). Also, PI 1953 QE II Coronation (Scott/PISG 19) Plate Block with plate numbers 1-2 or 1a-2a (mint NH or LH). Vernon Kisling, P.O. Box 1511, High Springs FL 32655-1511. Email: vkisling@ufl.edu. (4-13)

For many years I have been looking for a "Royal visit" cover from when the royal yacht *Britannia* made a stop at Pitcairn in 1971. If you have one to offer, please let me know. Bernie Reilander, 501 - 1081 Ambleside Drive, Ottawa ON K2B 8C8 CANADA (4-13)



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