



December/January 2009

### WINTER HOURS

**Monday – Friday**  
7:30 – 4:30  
**Saturday**  
7:30 – 12:00  
**Closed Sunday**

*As always, if you are running late just call ahead and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.*

**Winter Holidays:**  
Closing early December 24th, Closed Dec 25th, 26th & 27th for Christmas  
Closing early Dec 31st  
Closed January 1st for New Years.

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## Helping to Restore “Old Ironsides”

USS *Constitution*, now 211 years old, has made the Charlestown Navy Yard in Charlestown, Massachusetts its home for the last 75 years. While the ship’s current primary function is educational tours, the ship is also undergoing restoration to ensure the vessel is maintained for the public for many more years. The full-time staff of 26 conduct the restoration and maintenance work on the ship. The tours are run by the Commanding Officer of USS *Constitution* and his crew of 65+ enlisted men and women of the USN.

Many years ago, the Naval architects at the *Constitution* had come to Rand Lumber for some specialty lumber. One of the naval architects working on the restoration is James Almeida, who has over 30 years of experience in the Navy and civil service, working for Puget Sound



Naval Shipyard Detachment Boston as a Naval Architect Technician before coming to the *Constitution*. When faced with the current challenge of rebuilding the spar or main deck, Jim and his fellow ship restorers at the *Constitution* again looked to Rand Lumber for specialty lumber, purchasing oversized (14" x 16") pieces of Douglas fir, which are now being utilized primarily as shims in the area under the new spar deck planking.

The last significant restoration of *Constitution* was the dry-docking and overhaul of 1992-1996, but it is under constant maintenance. The ship today consists of approximately 10-12% of the wood that dates from her construction years of 1794-1797. The remainder of the ship is made up of materials from many years of reconstruction and restoration, using as many historically-correct materials and workmanship as possible.

Given the ship’s age, she has slowly lost her “shape” in certain areas, including the spar deck. When originally built, *Constitution*’s spar deck had a “camber” or crown to it of approximately 2 1/2" at the centerline; the deck then sloped out to the waterways on the sides of the deck, enabling water to drain properly from the deck. The present restoration work on the

*continued on next page...*

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spar deck will use Rand Lumber shims to restore the dimensions of the camber.

Jim has been relying on drawings and plans from a large-scale rebuilding project in the late 1920's in his research to rebuild the deck to be as close as possible to historic authenticity. The goal is to restore the deck to its 1812 configuration.

The current restoration includes not only the spar deck work, but replacement of select hull planks, portions of the ship's upper masts, and an overhaul of the ship's rigging. It is slated to be completed in 2010. The vessel is open for tours, throughout all periods of restoration. The masts are currently down, and visitors can see first-hand the craftsmanship that goes into maintaining a historically-correct piece of our national history.



### About the Constitution:

USS *Constitution* is the oldest commissioned warship afloat in the World. "Commissioned" means it is an active duty Navy warship. "Old Ironsides" is 100 percent seaworthy and is in outstanding condition for a ship more than two centuries old.

To celebrate her strength and beauty, and to commemorate certain events during the year, she performs several underway demonstrations, the most famous of which is July 4th.

For more information on the history of USS *Constitution*, please see the next page.

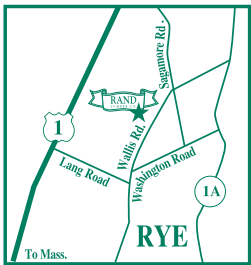


*Rand Lumber would like to wish a Happy 90th Birthday to Will Rand!*



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## RAND'S SALE ITEMS FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY 2009



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# *History of The USS Constitution, "Old Ironsides": A Grand Old Lady of the Fleet from The Boston Naval Shipyard,*

Vol. 19 No. 49, June 17, 1955

One of the first three ships built under this act was the CONSTITUTION, named for the great bulwark of our government. Born during the sea war with Napoleon's French fleet, the CONSTITUTION went immediately into action. Her unrivaled exploits soon established her as young America's "fightingest" ship, as she defeated in turn the best the French and British navies had to offer, and repulsed the piratical forays of the bounty seeking vessels of the African Barbary States.

The CONSTITUTION is the second oldest ship in the Navy. The high point in her early fighting days came with the siege of Tripoli. Peace with the Barbary state was made on her decks June 2, 1805, when the Bey of Tripoli came aboard to sign the pact ending hostilities.

In the War of 1812 the already renowned CONSTITUTION set sail to meet and return the fire of the imposing array of British Royal Navy ships that then ruled the sea.

In June that year the declaration of war had been read onboard the frigate at Washington, D.C., and for a month she remained on the defensive. In July, however, she out maneuvered a British squadron of five ships off New York, and in August her prowess once again was asserted. She captured and burned the British brigs ADEONA and LADY WARREN in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, recaptured the United States brig ADELIN, an enemy prize, and ordered her into Boston, and three days later she captured the GUERRIERE of 90 guns and 280 men. When Lieutenant George C. Read boarded the GUERRIERE after the battle he found the CONSTITUTION'S broadsides had wrecked the British man-of-war. Her masts and spars were hanging over the side, her guns were sheared off the mountings, her decks were littered with dead, and the ship was sinking. Captain Isaac Hull ordered her burned. It was in this action

that the CONSTITUTION earned the later established nickname of "Old Ironsides". A seaman saw a GUERRIERE shot hit the ship's wooden side and fall into the sea, and shouted, "Hurrah, her sides are made of iron!"

"Old Ironsides" completed her final action as a fighting unit of the Navy in 1853, when she intercepted and captured a number of ships engaged in illicit slave trade along the African coast.

When she returned to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in 1855, sailing ships had become completely outmoded. During and following the Civil War, she was used for training midshipmen at Annapolis, Maryland, and she made her last cruise to a foreign shore when she sailed with the American exhibit for the Paris Exposition in 1878.

From 1909 to 1925, "Old Ironsides" was anchored in the Boston Navy Yard and was used as a Naval museum. After 16 years of comparative inactivity as a "museum", Congress in 1925 authorized restoration of the CONSTITUTION, and a campaign was launched to raise the necessary money by public donations. School children contributed pennies to help support the campaign. In July, 1931, the historic frigate was recommissioned at Boston to the accompaniment of a 21-gun salute. The next day she sailed to visit 90 ports on the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf coasts. During this tour, 4,614,762 persons came aboard to inspect the vessel their sentiment and contributions had saved.

She returned to Boston in 1934 and was moored at a pier accessible to visitors, "in service, not commissioned." Her full commission was restored in August, 1940, and she has since become the flag ship for commandants of the First Naval District. In the meantime, she is being kept under close observation to detect first signs of deterioration in her hull timbers, rigging and appurtenances.