



# MUSEUM NEWS

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## CELEBRATING THE HISTORY AND COMMUNITY OF CAPE CHARLES & LOWER EASTERN SHORE

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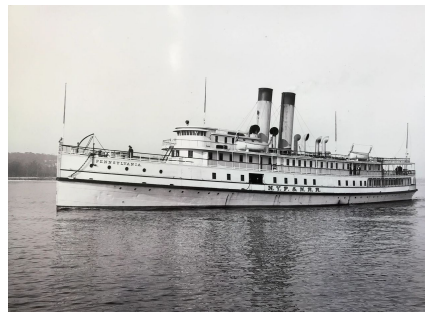
### CAPTAIN EDWARD RICHARDSON, NYP&N PRR RAILROAD STEAM BOAT MARINER

(Special from our new Collections Manager Laura Smith, author of the local history Blog "Sunday Historical". Read all about it on our website!)

On Tuesday, April 16, 2019 the Pilot House or Wheel House of the Captain Edward Richardson (Nandua) Railroad Barge was moved from the Cape Charles Rail Yard to its new home on the Cape Charles Museum grounds, as a part of the largest acquisition project the Cape Charles Historical Society has undertaken since Bloxom Station 17 years ago. The Pilot House is now surrounded by its railroad family members ; the baggage car, gondola car, caboose, locomotive and other railway transportation artifacts that once breathed life into the town of Cape Charles, Virginia.

Just who was Captain Edward Richardson anyway? Captain Arnel Edward Richardson was born in Wicomico County Maryland on 16 Dec 1866 to J. W. and M. E. Richardson. He married Roberta Day in Norfolk in 1894 and lived in Norfolk Virginia with his wife, son Arnel E. Richardson Jr. and daughter Emma. Emma later became a clerk for the railroad in 1920 and married Orris B. James, Chief Engineer, Ferry Corp of Jamesville, VA. In 1883, R.B. Cooke, William L. Scott, Alexander Cassatt, and W.H.

Painter toured the peninsula. Just a year later, the railroad was run to Cape Charles. Rail Service was continued from Cape Charles to Norfolk and points south via tugs, barges, and ferries. Around 1900, Captain Edward Richardson was master on the NYP&N railroad steamer *Pennsylvania*.



In 1905, when R.B. Cooke had charge of the Steamer Port in Port Norfolk, the railroad's growth had been so rapid that the office of Boat Master was created. This position was awarded to Captain Edward Richardson.



On 29 March 1910, Captain Edward Richardson age 44 (above, top row 4th from left), and approximately 25 residents of Cape Charles and other officials were the guests of NYP&N Superintendent Elisha Lee at the J. H. Dialogue and Son Shipyard in Camden New Jersey for the launching of the beloved NYP&N railroad tug *Cape Charles*.

In 1920, the local superintendent was R.H. Pinkham and among his staff was Edward Richardson, Boat Foreman. In the 1930 census, Richardson's occupation is still listed as Boat Master in the steam railroad industry. Captain Edward Richardson was a lifetime career railroad steam boat mariner. He died 17 Oct 1933 and is buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Norfolk VA. The long-serving railroad carfloat barge was named for him when it was put into service in 1949. This barge has served Cape Charles in many different ways over the last 70 years. We are honored to have its pilot (wheel) house on museum grounds for restoration and adaptive reuse.

Saving the remnants of Cape Charles' transportation history has been the top priority for the Cape Charles Historical Society this fiscal year. Just moving the Captain Edward Richardson Pilot House from the Harbor District to the Museum grounds cost the CCHS \$15,000. Moving the locomotive and train cars cost almost \$10,000. Due to the compressed timeline for asset disposal and yard clearance, the entire acquisition had to be completed quickly, so the Board didn't have time to fundraise before collection.

The money for this project was taken from our operating funds. The locomotive and cars now need to be stabilized. The Pilot House requires a foundation, before we can even begin to restore it. Our operating funds are depleted, and we need your help to replenish them so we can continue in this important work. Enclosed you will find a special fundraising opportunity. Please contribute today!

# AMAZON SMILE DONATIONS

Do you shop online with [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)?

**LOG INTO [SMILE.AMAZON.COM](https://www.amazon.com) INSTEAD AND DESIGNATE THE CAPE CHARLES HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AMAZON WILL DONATE 0.5% OF YOUR PURCHASE TO CCHS, AT NO ADDITIONAL COST TO YOU!**

## MUSEUM BUILDING REPAIRS AND BUILDING FUNDING

Unfortunately, we were not awarded a grant from the Marietta McNeill Morgan and Samuel Tate Morgan, Jr. Trust to help fund the necessary building repairs undertaken earlier this year. The Morgan Trust has been a reliable source of support for these sorts of projects in the past, so this news was a blow. We wound up spending \$54,500 total on these necessary structural repairs, and \$45,450 of that came out of our operating budget. This money was well spent - without a well maintained building, we wouldn't have a Museum! We are grateful for the building fund contributions of \$5,000 from the Town of Cape Charles in their upcoming fiscal year and for \$2,000 from the United Way though it is \$3,000 below their usual award. Unfortunately the United Way's 2018 campaign revenue was significantly lower than in previous years, and their donations had to be adjusted accordingly. As a bottom line, our monthly revenue from museum visitors and memberships does not usually cover monthly expenses, so we must rely on extra donations and past surpluses to continue normal operations. This makes your continuing financial support for the Historical Society all the more important.

## BUILDING A COMMUNITY: THE CAPE CHARLES ELEMENTARY ROSENWALD SCHOOL

This exhibition will remain on display in the museum until we close in December. We hosted about a hundred students and teachers from Northampton High School and Kiptopeake Elementary for field trips this spring. Thanks to the Cape Charles Rosenwald School Preservation Initiative, alumni of the Cape Charles Elementary were on hand during these field trips to lead discussion, and answer questions about their own experiences during segregation. This was an amazing living learning opportunity for

students and faculty alike. We hope to schedule additional field trips for the autumn.

## THE APRIL SHRIMP BOIL

The Shrimp Boil was enjoyed by all. Weather was perfect, music by Corn Funk Revue Band was great, and the low country shrimp boil and coleslaw were delicious. Silent auction with the usual array of eclectic items did well - do remember to donate things as you do summer clean outs. Renting smaller tents rather than struggling with our own unwieldy 20x40 tent enabled a greatly improved layout, with plenty of seating and room to move about. Our thanks go to Eastern Shore Tents and Rentals for the generous discount on the tent rental, and to the many volunteers who helped pull beer, serve food, setup and cleanup. There was a downside - ticket sales were much lower than anticipated, resulting in a financial return \$3,000 below last year's when more than 200 people attended. Why the low attendance? Probably several factors. Easter fell just a week before the Shrimp Boil. It's a big and serious holiday and many people may not be ready for another outing so soon. The Garden Tour, which we usually coincide with, took place the first weekend in May. In 2018 Easter fell on April 1. Also there are more and more events in and around Cape Charles starting in April. In particular a first time fundraiser for a different organization, also with good food and music, was scheduled for the same evening as our Boil. For 2020 the Board has decided to hold the Boil on Garden Day, which will be April 25. Easter in 2020 will be April 12. Our thanks go to sponsors for the 2018 Boil: Dora Sullivan, Mike & Jennifer Ash, Sprinkle & Sprinkle PLLC, Eastern Shore Events & Tents, Cape Charles Brewery, Bill & Dawn Neville, Dave Griffiths, Coldwell Bkr Harbor Realty, Joseph Garvey -The Sign Company, Inc, Minda Vargas, and Paul Grossman.

## MEMBERSHIPS, AND MEETINGS

As noted in the accompanying letter, we cannot overemphasize the importance of your continued support as we continue to grow to meet the needs of our community through museum exhibits, welcome center information, historic preservation and educational activities. Please contribute using the included form, or you may donate by credit or debit card through our website, [capecharlesmuseum.org](https://www.capecharlesmuseum.org). Be aware that credit card payments do incur a 3% charge so payment by check or cash will ensure your full donation amount furthers our historical mission!

A donation of at least \$20 (\$25 for households; \$35 for businesses) will make you a member, and with that comes perks! As a special members-only benefit, you will be entitled to purchase up to two adult and two children's tickets to the November Oyster Roast at a reduced rate - \$40 adults, \$20 children. Regularly priced tickets this year will be \$50 for adults, \$25 children. Event sponsors of \$150 (which includes 2 adult tickets) or more will have their contributions recognized in our next newsletter and online. And, of course you will continue to receive the newsletters three times a year.

Please be sure to visit the Museum and, if convenient, attend a monthly meeting, held generally on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 10:00 at the Museum (no meeting in July or December). Everyone is welcome. Board elections will take place in November. We are actively seeking new Board members!

## VOLUNTEER WITH CCHS IN 2019

Are you interested in volunteering? Our mission would benefit from your talents! Please provide your phone number and email on your membership form, stop by the museum and sign up, call Kimb Denny at (757) 607-6018, or email us at [capecharlesmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:capecharlesmuseum@gmail.com)

## NEW ADDITIONS TO OUR MUSEUM PLAQUES

**EACH YEAR PEOPLE WHO DONATE AT LEAST \$250 MAY ELECT TO ADD A PLATE TO THE MUSEUM PLAQUES. IN 2018 PLATES WERE ADDED FOR STANLEY LEE LEWIS, WILLIAM ALBERT RICHARDSON, AND PHILIP BERNARD TANKARD. WE ALSO HONORED SEVERAL OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTORS: MIKE HOWARD, JERRY LEWIS, AND JOHN COKER FOR ENABLING THE ACQUISITION OF THE RAILROAD CARS, ARTIFACTS, AND PILOT HOUSE.**