

Woods Hole Historical Collection
P.O. Box 185
Woods Hole, MA 02543

REGISTER
BROWNE MORGAN LITTELL COLLECTION
1854 – 1980s

3 boxes of files
9 boxes of books
(Browne Littell Book Collection)
plus nautical charts, framed photographs and artifacts

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Browne Morgan Littell
1938 - 2005

Browne Morgan Littell was born in Newark, New Jersey in 1938 and raised in Plattsburgh, New York where he graduated from high school in 1956. He received a Bachelor's Degree from Union College, a Master's Degree from Columbia University and a PhD. from Boston University. He taught English at Tufts University and American University, with a specialty in Herman Melville.

His family owned a summer home in Falmouth, Massachusetts and he became very active in sailing in neighboring Woods Hole. His interest in the sea, ships and boats began early when he taught himself to sail his family's Beetle Cat.. He was a legendary racer in Knockabouts and a National Champion in that class. He pursued an avid interest in the history and technology of this class of sail boat. His own boat, *Hecate*, was one of the last two Knockabouts manufactured in fiberglass.

He spent much of his time reading and researching the history of sailing vessels of all kinds as well as the history of racing motor boats. He accumulated many papers, articles and books on maritime history, was always available to do maritime research for others and gave generously of his knowledge for the creation of maritime exhibits.

He became the Steward of the Woods Hole Yacht Club in 1955 and in the 1990s he was on the board of the Woods Hole Historical Museum.

SCOPE NOTE

In the Littell collection there is extensive information on the Cape Cod Knockabout and material related to racing of this class. Other information concerns various aspects of maritime history. Artifacts include various small maritime artifacts. There is a collection of nautical charts and copies of lines for various sailing vessels. His book collection concentrates on aspects of maritime history as well as tools.

BROWNE LITTELL COLLECTION

BOX 1: BROWNE LITTELL KNOCKABOUT COLLECTION **Catalog and History of Cape Cod Knockabouts**

- 1-1. Cape Cod Knockabout: Development and Specs from Wood to Fiberglass
 - 1-2. Blueprint of Sail and Profile, 1950, by Robert Stanton Fox, with Revisions
 - 1-3. Cape Cod Shipbuilding Corporation: Correspondence (copies) between E.L. Goodwin, Cape Cod Shipbuilding Corporation and Southern Massachusetts Yacht Racing Association, Robert O. Bigelow (SMYRA 18 foot Cape Cod Knockabout Class Committee Chairman), etc., 1954-1959.
 - 1-4. Cape Cod Shipbuilding, booklets, history of boat building, etc.
 - 1-5. Telegram from Vincent DiMaio, Customflex, to Bruce Barnard, Frost Boat, February 9, 1959.
 - 1-6. Frost Boatyard, Development and Specs for fiberglass 18' Knockabout.
 - 1-7. 18' Knockabout Class and Specifications Committee.
 - 1-8. Cape Cod Knockabout Committee, Meeting Minutes, November 21, 1958.
 - 1-9. Knockabout Newsletters 1960-1971.
 - 1-10. 18' Knockabout Class Association Inc. Stationary.
 - 1-11. Frost Post-Season Regatta.
 - 1-12. Knockabout National Championship Regatta, 1960.
 - 1-13. 25th Anniversary Regatta, 18' (Cape Cod Baby) Knockabout Class, S.M.R.Y.A., August 18, 1962 booklet.
 - 1-14. Woods Hole Yacht Club Racing Results (Falmouth *Enterprise*),
Woods Hole Yacht Club Stationary.
 - 1-15. Knockabout Miscellany.
- Framed profile drawing of 18' Knockabout from Frost Boat Company.

HISTORY OF FIBERGLASS 18' KNOCKABOUT:

Notes made by Jennifer S. Gaines talking to Browne Littell, 2004

1954: Demand for fiberglass version of Cape Cod Knockabout

It was discovered that there were no lines for the Knockabout recorded, so the lines were taken off Prince Sears Crowell's *IMP* for Bruce Barnard of Frost Boat Company by Robert Stanton Fox.

The port side lines were taken and doubled (made into a mirror image for the starboard side).
Folder 16: Boat Miscellany (not Knockabout).

Vincent DiMaio of Toledo, Ohio, made five molds of the Knockabout, which were sold back here, shipped to Bruce Barnard at Frost Boat Company, and finished there. Vince did the first 45 hulls.

Cape Cod Shipbuilding in Wareham, Massachusetts threatened to sue Frost but their patent had expired. They forced Bruce Barnard of Frost Boat Company not to use CC on the sail but

PENGUIN is a wooden Knockabout. She was rebuilt and rivet fastened, was originally built in Wareham.

NOTE: We own both *IMP* and *PENGUIN*.

BROWNE LITTELL COLLECTION

BOX 2: BOAT INFORMATION

- 2-1. Cape Cod Boats (pamphlet)
- 2-2. Boat Miscellany
- 2-3. Harmsworth Trophy Photos and Information
- 2-4. *Baby Bootlegger*, speed boat, 1980s (copy of articles about)
- 2-5. Copies of articles from *Yachting*, *The Rudder*, c. 1908-1910, about motor racing boats and cup races
- 2-6. Copies of various sailing yacht photos, copy of index of items in Mariners Museum, Newport News, Virginia, of the boating and yachting photos of Clinton H. Crane, 1920s and 1930s.
- 2-7. Newsletters (Spring 1983, 1988-No.17), Photos of half-models and one sailing yacht from the Herreshoff Marine Museum, Bristol, R.I.
- 2-8. Correspondence re *Cayadetta*, inquiring into its origin
- 2-9. Copies of descriptions and photos of several St. Lawrence River steam yachts: *Calumet* and *Mollie C*.
- 2-10. Copies from the Haffenreffer-Herreshoff Collection, Hart Nautical Museum, M.I.T. of various Herreshoff hull designs and boat fittings for Woods Hole area boats: such as spritsails, *Quakeress*, *Quakeress III*, *Radiant*, *Dude*, etc.
- 2-11. Copies from the Hart Nautical Museum, M.I.T., of boat designs and fittings from Tams, Lemoine & Crane.
- 2-12. Correspondence, etc. for print orders and research at the M.I.T. Museum
- 2-13. Copy of typewritten manuscript: Basic Boatbuilding (9 pages)
- 2-14. *Glenn's History of Lake Champlain (New York and Vermont)*, Volume 6, *Lake Champlain Sailabouts and Cape Cod Knockabouts*. Paper covered thick booklet, 8 ½ x 11 inches.

BOX 3: ARTIFACTS

Hydrometer from Mr. Lilly's bedroom at "Red Oaks" (Quissett, Falmouth, Mass.)

Whetstone from Eddie Swift's shop (oiled with whale oil) (Woods Hole, Mass.)

Quissett Beach Association ID Tag (04-21)

Various boat plates, pins and badges:

- Brass plate from Cape Cod Ship Building Corp.
- Brass plate (un-numbered) Herreshoff Mfg. Co.
- Cloth badge, St. Petersburg-Fort Lauderdale Race 1969.
- Metal tag, Miami-Montego Bay Yacht Race, March 1971.
- Pin, Woods Hole Historical Museum Model Boat Show (red).
- Octagonal metal pin, The Mount Washington 18.

ARTIFACT (in tin box):

Two Ship's Biscuits from the *Andrea Doria* (sunk off Nantucket, July 26, 1956; life boats brought into Little Harbor Coast Guard Station).

BOX 4: ARTIFACT

Leather boat bumpers from a Naushon tender

BOX 5: Album of Sailing Photographs

Photo album, 11 x 15 inches, leatherette and burlap cloth cover. Contains 23 pages of mostly black and white photos, the majority by Dorothy I. Crossley, of Cape Cod Knockabout races, America's Cup Races, hurricane damage in Woods Hole. One page clipping of "The Dog Watch", a racing trophy article.

The album pages have deteriorated, become brittle and are crumbling to bits. Therefore each page and its photos has been encased in a mylar sleeve. The photos are in good condition.

FRAMED PHOTOGRAPHS:

Black and white photo of the wrecked whaling bark *Wanderer* with salvors, framed in natural wood taken from the wreck, approximately 16 ½ x 14 1/8 inches. Brass label attached.

Black and white photo of the *Cayadetta* (steam yacht used by M.B.L.). Matted in pale green with olive green frame, approximately 18 x 15 ½ inches. Correspondence about the origin of the yacht is in Box 2.

Color photo of Bruce Barnard's sloop *Storm* during a race in heavy weather. Browne was one of the yellow-slickered crew on board. Matted in white and framed in natural wood, approximately 17 x 21 inches.

CHARTS, BOAT LINES AND POSTERS: (rolled)

1. Marine Disasters of Buzzards Bay, material compiled by B.W. Luther, calligraphy by Susan Doucette, published by Peter J. Closson, Sandwich, Mass, 1971. Laminated poster.
2. Marine Disasters of Cape Cod, material compiled by B.W. Luther, published by Peter J. Closson, 1970, Published by H. Arnold Carr, 1982, Monument Beach, MA. 02553. Laminated poster.
3. NOAA-Coast & Geodetic Survey Chart 1209. Nantucket Sound and Approaches, 1943, Revised 1957.
4. NOAA-Coast & Geodetic Survey Chart 1210. Martha's Vineyard to Block Island including Buzzards Bay, 1941, Revised 1948.
5. U.S. Department of Commerce-Coast & Geodetic Survey Chart 249. Buzzards Bay. n.d.

6. U.S. Department of Commerce-Coast & Geodetic Survey Chart 260. Falmouth Harbor to Buzzards Bay. n.d.
7. NOAA Chart 13235. Woods Hole, 1979.
8. NOAA-Coast & Geodetic Survey Chart 315. Casco Bay, 1968.
9. NOAA Chart 16. St. Lawrence River, Whiskey Island Shoal to Bartlett Point, N.Y. and Grenadier Island to Jackstraw Shoal, Ontario, 1971.
10. Chart 1411. St. Lawrence Seaway, Beauharnois Canal, Lac St.-Louis to Lake St. Francis. Published by Canadian Hydrographic Service, Marine Sciences Branch, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Ottawa, 1967.
11. Hull No. 536, lines for *Albacore*, *Storm*, *Robin*, *Jubilee*, *Cantata*, *X-Boat*, Luders Marine Construction Company, July 1854, traced by Bruce Barnard, September 1968. Ozalid (blue-line) copy.
12. Lines for *Vingt-et-Un II*, 1904 Gold Cup Regatta winner, drawn by W.N. Pinkston, November 11, 1977, Sheet 1. Copyright 1977, The Model Shipwright, Bremerton, WA. 98310. Xerox copy.
13. Lines for *Vingt-et-Un II*, 1904 Gold Cup Regatta winner, drawn by W.N. Pinkston, November 11, 1977, Sheet 2. Copyright 1977, The Model Shipwright, Bremerton, WA. 98310. Xerox copy.
14. Lines for Bigelow catboat *Lurline*, measurements taken February 6, 1983 at Q.H.B.Y. (Quissett Harbor Boat Yard) by A. Gordon, B. Barnard, B. Littell. Xerox, 3 copies.
15. Lines and plans for *Gilt* and *Antrim*, 1898, Herreshoff Mfg. Company, Haffenreffer-Herreshoff Collection, Hart Nautical Museum, M.I.T. Xerox copy.
16. Lines for *Yankee*, drawn by E.I. Schock, n.d. Mystic Seaport Marine Historical Association, Mystic, CT. Ozalid (blue-line) copy and two xerox copies.