

The Water Witch

The Water Witch, a 1204 ton clipper ship, was launched from the yard of Fernald and Pettigrew, May 6, 1853. She was built under the supervision of Captain Benjamin Tay, for a syndicate headed by Stephen Tilton of Boston. Her measurements were: keel, 178 ft; deck, 182.6; over all 192x 38.3 x 21. Her lower masts measured 76, 80, and 73 feet, respectively, and her lower yards 70, 76 and 58 feet.

On her maiden voyage, she sailed from Boston, July 31, 1853, under the command of Capt. Washington Plummer. On September 16, she put into Rio, with four feet of water in her hold, and dismasted. She discharged her entire cargo for repairs, and was finally able to continue on December 31. She was off Cape Horn for ten days in strong gales. She crossed the equator in the pacific 51 days out from Rio, and was within three days sail of the Golden Gate for 10 days, arriving in San Francisco on March 16, 1854. Her Captain reported her passage as 116 sailing days from Boston, and 76 from Rio. The return trip was much smoother, making Callao in 52 days, 64 days

to Hampton Roads, docking in New York on October 20, 1854, 765 days from Callao.

Her next voyage was her last. She made San Francisco in 120 days out of New York, arriving on April 11, 1855. The Captain reported 59 days to Cape Horn, where she was off ten days in strong gales, 26 days from the equator to San Francisco, in light winds. She sailed from San Francisco on April 30, 1855, arriving in San Blas in eight days, a good run. She sailed on to Ypala to take on a load of dye-woods. On the evening of June first, 1855, she dragged both anchors in a violent storm and was dismantled. Despite a valiant effort by the crew cutting away the masts, she went on the rocks. The steward and one seaman were lost, the rest of the officers and men got a line ashore and were saved. The ship was sold "as she lay" for \$500.00. She had been insured for \$68,000.00.

This is the builder's model of the clipper ship "Water Witch," built in 1853, to commemorate the launching of the vessel. The model was held in private collections for most of her life. In the 1950's, by then the model was held in a collection in Florida, the owner had her restored re-rigged, and the Plexiglas (dim. 48.5 l x 33.25 h x 15.5 d) case installed. The model then was sold to the Bookstore and Restaurant, Wellfleet, Mass. where she was displayed proudly for many years. We purchased her in Massachusetts.

Bibliography

American Clipper Ships: 1833-1858; Howe, Octavius and Matthews, Frederick; Salem Mass; 1927.

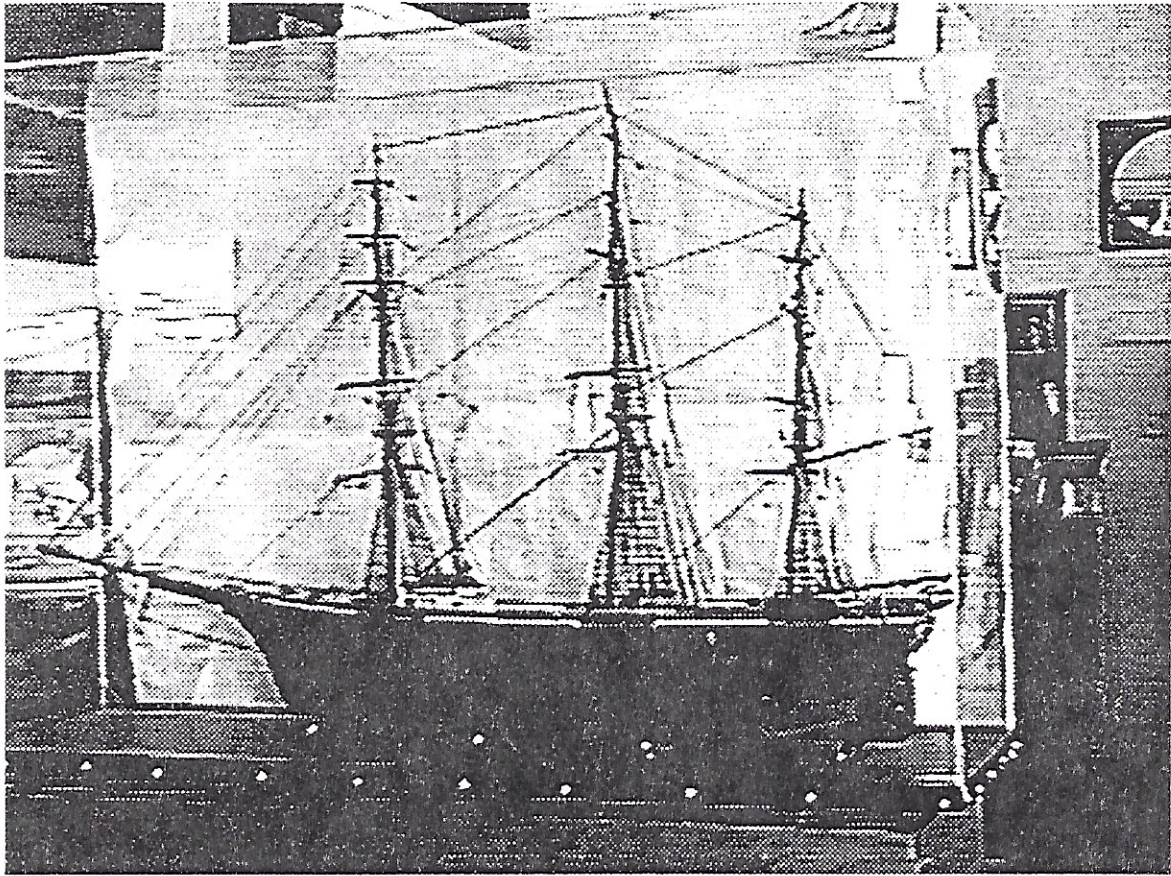
Merchant Sail, Vol V; Fairburn, William; Fairburn Marine Educational Foundation, 1945.

Note: The actual model dimensions are just slightly smaller than the case - The bowsprit, aft-boom and spars almost touch the plexiglass -

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487 Union Street
Bangor, Maine 04401
800-395-5128
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Statement of Account
Customer: Richard Sambol
546 Navisink River Rd,
Middletown, NJ 07701

Clipper Ship Model: "Water Witch"	\$3000.00
Original Payment	1500.00
Received 5/12/97	1500.00
Delivery Charge (Water Witch)	300.00
Total Account	\$3300.00
Received:	\$3350.00
Refund Due (enclosed)	\$ 50.00



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MODEL IS SCALED
 $3/16" = 1'$



to Hampton Roads, docking in New York on October 20, 1854, [?] 765 days from Callao. ^{PROB 65}

CLEARED NY 6 DEC 1854

OR 127 DAYS

Her next voyage was her last. She made San Francisco in 120 days out of New York, arriving on April 11, 1855. The Captain reported 59 days to Cape Horn, where she was off ten days in strong gales, 26 days from the equator to San Francisco, in light winds. She sailed from San Francisco on April 30, 1855, arriving in San Blas in eight days, a good run. She sailed on to Ypala to take on a load of dye-woods. On the evening of June first, 1855, she dragged both anchors in a violent storm, ~~and was dismasted~~. Despite a valiant effort by the crew cutting away the masts, she went on the rocks. The steward and one seaman were lost, the rest of the officers and men got a line ashore and were saved. The ship was sold "as she lay" for \$500.00. She had been insured for \$68,000.00.

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'GREYHOUNDS OF THE SEA' BY CARL C. CUTLER
1930, G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS.
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