This past summer was an exciting time for the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum. It was a great summer, one full of happy visitors and museum firsts. In recognition of next year’s 300th Anniversary of steelmaking in Pennsylvania, NISHM carried out its first series of Iron & Steel Site Tours. These bus trips allowed members of the community to visit iron and steel making sites throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania. Attendees learned about iron and steelmaking processes, the products made in this region, and the impact of the iron and steel industry on this region’s history. I am happy with the success of these site tours and look forward to future plans regarding Pennsylvania’s 300th Anniversary!

This summer NISHM also implemented the Transcontinental Railroad Exhibit, the first we have had in a number of years. The exhibit portrayed the people, process, products, and important historical moments of America’s railroad industry. Visitors greatly enjoyed this exhibit and we are excited to announce our second exhibit of 2015! Titled “U.S. Shipbuilding in the Age of Iron and Steel,” this exhibit opened in October and examines the mutual relationship between the shipping and iron and steel industries. Please read more about this exhibit in this issue of the Boilerplate!

I hope you will stop by and see this wonderful exhibit. See you soon!!

Welcome to our third edition of our newly designed Boilerplate! In this issue you will read about our newest exhibit: “U.S. Shipbuilding in the Age of Iron and Steel.”

The steel and shipping industries were greatly influential upon one another and our exhibit portrays the history of this relationship. We are very excited about this exhibit, which is on display now, and we hope you will come see it!

In other news, NISHM has recently strengthened its marketing efforts. Through advertising, events, and partnerships, we are trying to spread the word about our museum and the history of steelmaking in Coatesville. Whether it’s through an advertisement in a local publication, a newspaper article written about a recent event, or seeing the NISHM name in conjunction with other organizations, we are doing our best to fulfill our mission of collecting, preserving, exhibiting, and educating the public on our nation’s steelmaking past!

Thank you for your continued interest and support in what we do!

The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum is a project of the Graystone Society, a 501(c)3 public charity registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.
This fall NISHM debuted our second exhibit for 2015: “U.S. Shipbuilding in the Age of Iron and Steel.” The exhibit features photos of shipbuilding technology and strategies and highlights Lukens Steel Company’s considerable contributions to many of America’s iconic ships.

In its earliest days, the success of Lukens Steel Company, known as the Brandywine Ironworks and Nail Factory, stemmed from America’s early shipping industry. In 1818, the ironworks rolled America’s first iron boilerplate, which was used to make steam engines for ships and locomotives. 

One of the works’ customers was John Elgar, of York, PA, who ordered iron boilerplate for the Codorus – America’s first iron-hulled steam ship! Other ships made with Lukens steel included the USS Forrestal, the USS New Jersey, and the Nautilus, the world’s first nuclear-powered submarine. From its beginning, the Coatesville mill has had great influence on the history of United States ships!

Our “U.S. Shipbuilding in the Age of Iron and Steel” exhibit features the ships mentioned above, and many more. Passenger, military, cargo, and other ships are displayed and “moments in time” examine the importance of ships and iron and steel to the history of the United States.

The exhibit will run until May 2016. We hope you will come see this wonderful exhibit and learn more about ship technology in America and Lukens Steel Company’s vital contributions to the ship industry!

Clockwise: 1. The USS Ohio under construction at General Dynamics Electric Boat. 2. Hercules was built in 1907 by John H. Dialogue and Sons, of Camden, New Jersey. 3. At the turn of the 20th century, merchant interest in ship technology exploded, which led to larger cargo ships and more profitable voyages across the seas.
Volunteer Day: Hanging the Shipbuilding Exhibit

On September 28th, NISHM volunteers and staff spent a Saturday preparing the shipbuilding exhibit to hang. Many thanks to volunteers Pete Nunn, Patti Hudock, Dick Scott, Gene DiOrio, and NISHM staffers Jim Ziegler, Juliette Honsinger, and Sam Radziviliuk.

Exhibit Opens For Preview At October 1st Lecture

Thank you to our partners:
- The Hagley Museum and Library
  Wilmington, DE
- SS United States Conservancy
  Washington, DC
- Submarine Force Library & Museum
  Groton, CT
- Coatesville Youth Initiative
  Coatesville, PA
- Quaker Chroma Imaging
  Moorestown, NJ

Exhibit team:
- Kathy Bratton
- Francis Ciarrocchi
- Eugene DiOrio
- Patricia Hudock
- Peter Nunn
- Richard Scott
- Sharon Tandarich
- James Ziegler
- Diane Ceribelli
- Allison Connell
- Juliette Honsinger
- Scott Huston
- Samuel Radziviliuk
- Pazia Segers
- LaQuisa Thompson-Fields
Lecture and Trip Kick-off
The Shipbuilding Exhibit

Lukens Steel Company had pronounced impact on the ship industry, which greatly influenced the history of the United States. In conjunction with the “U.S. Shipbuilding in the Age of Iron and Steel” exhibit, we recently held programs and events that were related to the exhibit. We were proud to honor our nation’s shipping past with the following programs and events:

On Thursday, October 1, we held our fall lecture. The speaker was Dr. Thomas Heinrich, author of Ships for the Seven Seas: Shipbuilding in the Age of Industrial Capitalism. The lecture was titled “Steel, Ships, and Naval Supremacy: Delaware Valley Shipbuilding in Peace and War” and attendees learned about the American steel industry’s impact on shipbuilding in the Philadelphia area. Dr. Heinrich provided a wonderful presentation.

We also took a bus trip to Annapolis, Maryland on Thursday, October 8. We visited the United States Naval Academy Museum which exhibits the history of seapower, the development of the U.S. Navy, and the role of the U.S. Naval Academy in producing officers capable of leading America’s sailors and marines. It was quite a trip and please keep an eye out for our next bus trip in Spring 2016!
Trips, Barbecue, & September 11th Commemoration

This summer, NISHM hosted its first series of Iron & Steel Site Tours. This series of bus trips allowed members of the community to visit iron and steelmaking sites located throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania including Joanna Furnace, Cornwall National Historic Site, the Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area, Colebrookdale Railroad and others. A special thank you goes to Al Giannantonio and his wife, Tina, for sponsoring our historic train ride at Colebrookdale Railroad!

On September 11, we also hosted our annual Coatesville Remembers: 14th Anniversary World Trade Center Commemoration. We marked the time with bell ringings, readings, and moments for silent reflection of those tragic events that occurred in 2001. Members of the community were also able to see steel tridents from the Twin Towers, view other related art and exhibits, and tour the museum. It was an ideal time for memory and reflection.

Lastly, on October 3, we held our annual Steelworkers Barbeque. Despite the cool, wet weather, attendees had a wonderful time socializing with each other, eating delicious barbeque food, and witnessing the presentation of pins to those who gave 20, 30, 40, or more years of service to the Coatesville steel site!

Miss these events? View our website or look for emails or mailings about upcoming events!
Heritage Day and Holiday Events Will Close Out the Year

Coming up on Saturday, October 17, the City of Coatesville will celebrate Heritage Day in honor of Coatesville’s 100th anniversary of incorporation as a city. Many events will take place at various locations throughout the day: Pancake Breakfast at Brandywine Goddard Lodge (8:00a.m. to Noon), Food Trucks on Harmony Street, tours of historic churches, moon bounce and pony rides at Ash Park, tours of the Lukens National Historic District (10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.), and so much more! Visit our website for a downloadable schedule and map of Heritage Day!

Our Fall season will end with our annual Holiday Open House on Friday, December 11, from 5:00 to 8:00pm. This is a free event where members of the community can tour the Lukens National Historic District and see our historical buildings all decorated for the holiday season. Santa will be here and visitors will enjoy holiday music, a wonderful train display, and delicious refreshments!

Then, on Saturday, December 12th everyone is invited to have Brunch with Santa. Join Santa at Graystone Mansion for brunch, give Santa your list, and have a photo taken with him compliments of Citadel F.C.U. Breakfast will run from 10am to 1pm, $5.00 per person and pictures are free!
Located between Terracina and the 120" Mill, this building is typical of housing built for steel workers. This house was erected in 1880 next to a barn. It was later occupied by the chauffeur/butler of Stewart and Harriet Huston. Stewart was a descendant of Rebecca Lukens. The interior of the Tenant House has been completely restored.

In our ongoing efforts to achieve historical accuracy with its properties, NISHM engaged a professional paint analyst, Frank Welsh, to investigate the interior finishes to determine original 19th-century paint colors.

An exterior painting project began this summer with an extensive sanding of surfaces and an application of white primer. With Mr. Welsh's study report in hand, we plan to complete this painting with a historically accurate color scheme, thereby enhancing the building's position in our National Historic Landmark ensemble.
300th Anniversary of Iron & Steelmaking In Pennsylvania!

Did you know that in 2016 Pennsylvania will celebrate 300 years of iron and steelmaking? In 1716, Thomas Rutter erected the first ironmaking site in Pennsylvania along Manatawny Creek, a tributary of the Schuylkill River, near Pottstown. Rich iron ore and limestone deposits and nearby sources for charcoal made this site, and many others in Pennsylvania, ripe for ironmaking. Throughout the rest of the 18th century, many other ironmasters followed suit. These early ironmasters began a lasting tradition of iron and steelmaking, one that still exists today.

Pennsylvania has numerous steelmaking sites still in operation today and many historical sites and organizations that preserve the state’s iron and steelmaking past. Sites from all over the state are working together to spread the word about this important anniversary and to make next year a true celebration. Events and happenings throughout 2016 will celebrate and honor Pennsylvania’s iron and steelmaking heritage. Please visit www.ironandsteelheritage.org for more information!

Members Spotlight

Thank you to all of our members who joined or renewed from July 1 to October 1, 2015.

New Members

   Allan Horwitz
   Patricia St. Georges

Renewing Members

   Thomas Barnett     Chuck Hossack
   Louis Beccaria     John Kirwin
   Robert Blount      Dallas Krapf
   Geraldine Branson  Joan Levenite
   Diane Cerebelli    Joseph Pitts
   Jack Connor        M. Cynthia Quinn
   Adair Curtiss      Barry Rabin
   Sherry Deets       Barbara Reczek
   Dorothy DiOrio     Ted & Martha Skiadas
   Judi Ebelhar       Paul Trace
   Ron Echoff         James Turtle
   John & Mitzi Forese Evelyn Walker
   Larry Freeman      Howard Wright
   Robert Hennessey   Susan Ziegler
   Mary Ellen Hopson

Long-time Members (5+ Consecutive Years)

   Thomas Barnett     Joseph Pitts
   Louis Beccaria     Barbara Reczek
   Robert Blount      Ted & Martha Skiadas
   Jack Conner        Paul Trace
   John & Mitzi Forese James Turtle
   Robert Hennessey   Howard Wright
   Joan Levenite

Supporting Members ($250 Level and Above)

   Larry Freeman
   John Kirwin
   Ted & Martha Skiadas

We are greatly appreciative of ALL of our Members’ support!
Coatesville Heritage Day
October 17 | 10 am to 4pm

Holiday Open House: Santa, Trains and Music
December 11 | 5pm to 8pm

Breakfast With Santa
December 12 | 10am to 1pm

2015 Sponsors

Charles & Barbara Huston | Peter & Ruth Nunn | Scott & Meredith Huston | Al & Tina Giannantonio
A Man and His Ship, by Steven Ujifusa

In the 1940s and 1950s, William Francis Gibbs was hailed as America’s best naval architect and his quest to build the SS United States was a topic of national attention. Upon completion in 1952, the SS United States was a technological masterpiece in a time of America’s world prominence. Ujifusa’s book follows Gibbs’ completion of the SS United States in great detail. It can be yours for just $29.99!

A Visual Encyclopedia of Ships

Since the beginning, humans have aspired to master the sea. Over time, changes in technology and purpose led to the creation of a myriad of ships and sailing craft. This encyclopedia serves as a pictorial and informational guide to more than 1,000 of the most important ships in human history, from the earliest Viking longships to the present nuclear submarines. It is an essential reference book for all maritime and ship enthusiasts! Available today for $44.99!

D-Day Invasion LST Model Kit

The Landing Ship Tank (LST) was an important combat vehicle for the Allies in World War II. It allowed for the transport of heavy equipment without the need for harbor facilities after 1941. The LST took part in various battles throughout WWII and by the end of the war, the Allies could manufacture an LST in less than two months. The model measures 16 inches long and includes decals, display stand, and L.C.V.P’s. $34.95.
Sometime after the conclusion of the Coatesville Remembers September 11th Commemoration, an unknown visitor returned and left a tribute to the victims of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Coatesville and America will never forget.