
From: Mann, Melissa [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=AB0197D1514F4C099869869FD8908A8F-MMANN]
Sent: Tue 9/19/2023 4:30:33 PM (UTC-04:00)
To: Lowery, Andrea [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: [External] The Brig Niagara and the Navy and Marine Corps 250th Celebration

FYI

Melissa L. Mann | Director | she/her/hers
Bureau of Historic Sites & Museums | Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
400 North Street E-107 | Harrisburg, PA 17120

www.phmc.state.pa.us



Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

From: Mann, Melissa
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 4:29 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Hall, James <[REDACTED]> Fox, Charles <[REDACTED]> Pollman, Howard <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: [External] The Brig Niagara and the Navy and Marine Corps 250th Celebration

Hello George,

We regretfully inform you that the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC) and the U.S. Brig *Niagara* will not be able to participate in the 2025 Homecoming 250 Navy Marine Corps event in Philadelphia. This decision was made after careful consideration of two significant factors: cost and the condition of the ship.

The estimated cost of transporting the *Niagara* to Philadelphia, which includes dry docking and inspection, fuel, crew expenses (salary, provisions, medical, etc.), berthing fees, canal lock tolls, and contingency, is projected to range from \$1 million to \$1.2 million. Such an investment would account for nearly 5 percent of PHMC's already limited budget, making it financially impossible for us to participate.

Furthermore, additional concerns arise regarding the current physical and mechanical condition of the U.S. Brig *Niagara*. Major permanent repairs to the ship's bow structure are required prior to the next sailing season and were already slated for 2024. Additionally, the *Niagara's* maintenance issues worsened during the 2023 sailing season when the ship had to cancel a significant portion of its sailing season because of the loss of a propeller and generator failure. This fall the U.S. Brig *Niagara* will travel to shipyard where it will undergo a comprehensive survey of its mechanical and maintenance requirements. This survey is vital for the development of a long-term maintenance and

preservation plan, ensuring future sailing seasons. We are already anticipating that the ship will not sail in 2024, and we cannot ensure that the necessary repairs and updates will be completed in time to sail in 2025.

Since we do not yet have the results of this survey, along with associated costs and timelines, we cannot responsibly commit to participating in Homecoming 250 Navy Marine Corps. Rushing into such a commitment without fully understanding the situation could lead to greater disappointments in the future.

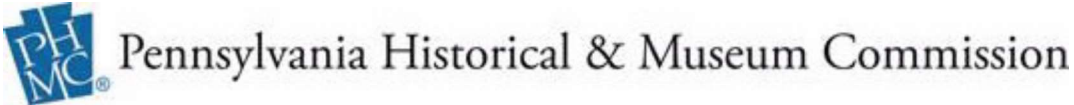
However, PHMC is committing its resources to preparing the U.S. Brig *Niagara* to sail along Pennsylvania's northwest coast in 2026. This will allow the ship to serve as a valuable tourism asset for Erie and western Pennsylvania as we celebrate our nation's Semiquincentennial.

PHMC deeply regrets that our Commonwealth's flagship cannot take part in the Homecoming 250 Navy Marine Corps celebration in 2025. This decision was not taken lightly and followed extensive internal deliberations and consultation with the administration.

We appreciate your understanding and continued support as we work towards preserving and celebrating this historic vessel.

Sincerely,

Melissa L. Mann | Director | she/her/hers
Bureau of Historic Sites & Museums | Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
400 North Street E-107 | Harrisburg, PA 17120
www.phmc.state.pa.us



From [redacted] <[redacted]@[redacted].org>
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2023 7:42 PM
To: Hall, James <[redacted]>; Fox, Charles <[redacted]>; Pollman, Howard <[redacted]>; Mann, Melissa <[redacted]>
Cc: Lowery, Andrea <[redacted]>; 'Phil Rowan' <[redacted]>; 'Monica Hallman' <[redacted]>
Subject: [External] The Brig Niagara and the Navy and Marine Corps 250th Celebration

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It was great to talk to you all today! We are delighted that, subject to the PHMC's final approval, the Pennsylvania State Flagship *Niagara* may participate in the Navy and Marine Corps 250th Celebration in Philadelphia, tentatively scheduled for October 9-19, 2025. I look forward to a definitive yes,

hopefully well before the October 9-10, 2023 public announcement of the 250th Celebration during the Navy/Marine Week in Philadelphia.

Jim, welcome to our Ships Committee! Let me introduce its chair Phil Rowan, who is cc'ed above. The next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2023, at 3 pm by Zoom.

Melissa, please let me know who from the PHMC will serve on Advisory Committee, which will next meet September 6, 2023, at 2 pm by Zoom.

Charles, I appreciated your nautical knowledge. I am happy to work with you all to see if the *Niagara* can come here like the Olympic Torch, stopping at ports from Erie to here advertising herself, Erie, the Commonwealth, and the Navy and Marine Corps 250th Celebration, drawing visitors to Philadelphia for the big event.

Howard, I am happy to assist you to work with the Governor's Office (our contacts are Amanda Warren, [REDACTED] and Josh Neyhart, [REDACTED] and the General Assembly, where Senators Robinson and Rothman sponsored resolutions on our behalf, and Representative Solomon has assisted us. Our VP and Communications Chair Monica Hallman and I will be delighted to work with you to publicize the *Niagara's* visit, gaining her new visitors here and in Erie.

Finally, I would love to explore how the PHMC< the Erie Maritime Museum, and the Pennsylvania Military Museum could participate in the exhibits we are planning in Philadelphia in 2025. With the cooperation of the participating Philadelphia museums, we could display your art, artifacts, and documents relating to the 250 years of Navy and Marine Corps history to a new audience in Eastern Pennsylvania. We would also welcome your curatorial expertise. When can we talk about that?

We are very excited to work with you and the PHMC to give the Commonwealth, its museums, and its wonderful museum ship a starring role in the Navy and Marine Corps 250th Celebration! In case some of you did not get it earlier, I attach our brochure and one-page summary of our plans for this national event, which are illustrated at <https://www.homecoming250.org/>. – George

George S. Leone
Chair and President, *Homecoming 250 Navy Marine Corps*
www.homecoming250.org

[REDACTED]
Director, *Tun Tavern Legacy Foundation*



From: Hall, James <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 5:13 PM
To: [REDACTED] [g](#)
Cc: Mann, Melissa <[REDACTED]> Fox, Charles <[REDACTED]> Pollman, Howard
<[REDACTED]> Lowery, Andrea <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: [External] The Brig Niagara and the Navy and Marine Corps 250th Celebration Meeting - July 19 at 2 pm

Good afternoon, George:

I left a voicemail for you earlier this afternoon at the number listed in your signature line below but am following up with this email!

We (PHMC) would like to have a conversation with your organization previous to having representatives from the Flagship Niagara League (FNL) involved.

As I'd alluded to in my email previously to you, the Brig Niagara is a Commonwealth of PA asset under the direct administration & operation of the PA Historical & Museum Commission. The FNL is simply a contracted vendor under hired by PHMC to sail the ship for us this season. The contracted relationship between PHMC and the FNL may very well change in the future and as such, we're requesting that further discussion regarding the inclusion of the Brig for any event/purpose be directed solely to the appropriate PHMC staff.

While tomorrow's Zoom meeting (Wed., July 19 @ 2PM) is not a good time for the PHMC attendees who should be involved, we'd like to set something up next Thursday, July 27. I know some of the folks involved from Harrisburg have a 9AM meeting as well as a 3PM meeting that day so I'm hoping that we might be able to schedule something around mid-day – perhaps either late AM or early PM?

I have copied Melissa Mann (Director of PHMC's Bureau of Historic Sites & Museums), Charlie Fox (Western Division Chief of Historic Sites & Museums), and Howard Pollman (Director of External Affairs) to this email & would ask that you please include them when setting up this next Niagara participation meeting. I noticed that you'd included Andrea Lowery on your original invite as Executive Director of PHMC and you're certainly welcome to keep her engaged on this as well.

Thanks for reaching out, sorry that tomorrow won't work on our end, but please take a look at next Thursday & see if we can put something together then! My best – JIM

James E. Hall
Site Administrator, Erie Maritime Museum
Bureau of Historic Sites and Museums
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

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Email: [REDACTED]
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150 East Front Street, Suite 100

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www.eriemaritimemuseum.org | www.phmc.pa.gov
www.facebook.com/eriemaritime1813

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 4:19 PM
To: 'Billy Sabatini' [REDACTED]; Hall, James <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Lowery, Andrea <[REDACTED]> Neyhart, Joshua <[REDACTED]> Phil Rowan
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: [External] The Brig Niagara and the Navy and Marine Corps 250th Celebration Meeting - July 19 at 2 pm

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Dear Mr. Hall and Captain Billy – As you know, I am the head of Homecoming 250 Navy Marine Corps, the Pennsylvania charity dedicated to bringing the celebration of the Navy and Marine Corps 250th birthdays to their birthplace – Philadelphia and the Delaware River. As a result of our efforts, the Secretary of the Navy has directed the Navy and Marine Corps to celebrate their 250th anniversaries in Philadelphia and Camden in 2025, and to hold a preparatory Navy/Marine Week here on October 9-15, 2023. The 2025 Navy and Marine Corps 250th celebration will be the grand opening event of the Semiquincentennial. Here are our updated brochure and summary of our plans, which are illustrated on our website <https://www.homecoming250.org/>.

As we have discussed, we want the Brig *Niagara* to play a starring role in the Navy and Marine Corps 250th Celebration in Fall 2025. As one of the oldest and most historic Navy vessels in existence, it should participate in the Navy 250th celebrations. Moreover, our signature and most spectacular event is assembling a ship from every major war which the Navy has fought, with the *Niagara* representing the Navy of the War of 1812. Bringing the *Niagara* to Philadelphia in 2025 will enable residents in the eastern part of Pennsylvania the opportunity to see the Pennsylvania State Flagship again after a long absence. Finally, featuring *Niagara* in the national celebration of the Navy and Marine Corps 250th will gain new fans and publicity for her and the PHMC, and situate *Niagara* to participate in the Semiquincentennial events on the East Coast in 2026 if desired.

Bringing the *Niagara* to Philadelphia has garnered much support in the Legislature, which included that request in their attached resolutions supporting Homecoming 250. A renewed resolution is being considered now, and Governor Shapiro's office is interested as well.

When can we discuss the *Niagara*'s possible participation in the Navy and Marine Corps 250th Celebration? I invite you both to join our next Ships Committee meeting on **July 19 at 2 pm**. The

Zoom invitation is below. If that does not work for you, when you are available?

We look forward to working with you, the PHMC, and all those who want to promote the *Niagara!* –
George