

USS Plymouth Rock (LSD29)

Newsletter May - August 2004

Welcome to the USS Plymouth Rock Newsletter

This is our Seventh Ships Newsletter to be created in this format. If you would like to contribute an article, a piece of Navy or Plymouth Rock history, photo, memory or anything that might be of interest to you or other shipmates, you can send it as an e-mail to:

Bill Provençal, Association Secretary at:

billinp@worldpath.net

or regular mail at:

Bill Provençal
37 South Main Street
Pittsfield, NH 03263

If you change **address** or **e-mail address** be sure to let me (Bill Provençal) know so we can update our Crews List. My e-mail is billinp@worldpath.net Our website is found at www.ussplymouthrock.com



It Is The Veteran...

K



**It is the VETERAN, not the preacher, who has given us freedom of religion.
It is the VETERAN, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.
It is the VETERAN, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the VETERAN, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to assemble.
It is the VETERAN, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.
It is the VETERAN, not the politician, Who has given us the right to vote.**



It is the VETERAN, who salutes the Flag,

who serves under the Flag,



ETERNAL REST GRANT THEM O LORD, AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.



Plymouth Rock (LSD-29) underway shortly before deploying to the Mediterranean for a tour with the Sixth Fleet, 8 April 1963. Note the experimental retractable sonar fitted to her bow. Click photo to enlarge.
US Navy photo # 1089896, from the collections of the US Naval Historical Center.

US Naval
Historical
Center



Marines on Board, February 1969.
Photo contributed by Harry Andersen



LSD Retires

Monday, August 25, 2003, marks the end of an era for one ship. The Amphibious Dock Landing Ship USS Portland (LSD37) was decommissioned at Little Creek. She was commissioned in

1970. The 32 year old ship recently returned from missions in Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The USS Portland was the second ship to carry that name. The first USS Portland was a heavy cruiser. That ship was commissioned in 1933.



A soldier, a marine, and an airman got into a fight about which service is best. The fight was so heated, that they killed each other. Soon, they found themselves in Heaven. They see St. Peter walk by and ask, "Which Branch of Service is the best?" St. Peter replied, "I can't answer that. But, I will ask God what He thinks the next time I see Him." Some time later, the three see St. Peter again and ask him if he was able to find the answer. Suddenly, a dove landed on St. Peter's shoulder. The dove was carrying a note in its beak. St. Peter opened the note and read it out loud to the three fellows: "Gentlemen: All the Branches of the Service are 'Honorable and Noble'. Each one of you has served your country well. Be proud of that. (signed) GOD, USN (Ret.)"



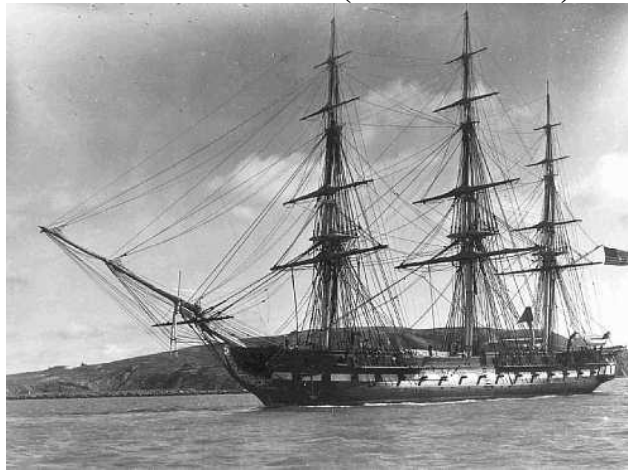
Captains Gig Underway
Picture Contributed by Ron Swearingen



Shipmates Who Live in the State of Missouri	
Ben Britt	Ballwin
Harry Ishmael	Chafee
Bernie E. Lillig	Raytown
Shaggs L. Rastus	Farmington
Bill Ronan	St. Charles
Lester L. Snider	Sainte Genevieve
Richard A. Watts	Kirkwood



USS Constitution (Old Ironsides)



The U.S.S. Constitution (Old Ironsides) as a combat vessel carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men. This was sufficient to last six months of sustained operations at sea. She carried no evaporators (fresh water distillers).

However, let it be noted that according to her log, "On July 27, 1798, the U.S.S. Constitution sailed from Boston with a full complement of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum."

Her mission: "To destroy and harass English shipping."



Making Jamaica on 6 October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and 8,300 gallons of rum.

Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there 12 November. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine.

On 18 November, she set sail for England. In the ensuing days she defeated five

British men-of-war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchantmen, salvaging only the rum aboard each.

By 26 January, her powder and shot were exhausted. Nevertheless, and though unarmed, she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. Her landing party captured a whiskey



distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons of single malt Scotch aboard by dawn.

Then she headed home.

The U.S.S. Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 February 1799, with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, NO rum, NO wine, NO whiskey and 38,600 gallons of stagnant water.

GO NAVY!



**P Rock tied up astern of a German Destroyer in the port of Wilhelmshaven, Germany, September, 1967
- Ron Swearingen**



★ ★ ★ Welcome Aboard ★ ★ ★

Recently Located Shipmates

Ira Gartrell, GMG3, Rochester, NY e-mail at: cgartrell@juno.com

Bill Goodman, Wartburg, TN

James Keefe, SA, Malden, MA e-mail at: jessejam@gis.net

Harry Ishmael, BT3, Chaffee, MO e-mail at: cphdh@aol.com

Raymond Harvey, EN3, Daisy, TN e-mail at: raymondharvey@neto.net

Ed Campbell, GMG, Middletown, NJ e-mail at: bigdog17@verizon.net

Franklin Wade, SN, , Lexington, VA e-mail at: pmnatbrg@hotmail.com

Barry Robb, Allentown, PA e-mail at: momrobb2@hotmail.com

Harry Kellar, Bridgeport, WV e-mail at: rosegooski2@aol.com

Mike McLain, FT3, Ashville, AL e-mail at: a071070@allstate.com

Bob Navigato, RM3, Chicago, IL e-mail at: twootta3@aol.com

Tony Troutman, GMG3, Gladstone, MI e-mail at: ttroutman@chartermi.net
 Mike Welsh, BM2, San Diego, CA e-mail at: michael.k.welsh@navy.mil
 T. C. Hofman, PN2, Penguin, Tasmania 7316, e-mail at: tchofman@bigpond.com
 Jim Hartzel, GMG3, Burke, VA e-mail at: jim.haratzell@verison.net
 Robert Shober, BT3, Sinking Spring, PA
 Frank D. Gire, BTC, Stafford, VA
 Hollis (Snake) Stedman, OS2, Altamont, NY e-mail at: mingmag@peoplepc.com
 Mike Wray, Lewiston, PA e-mail at: mandmwray@acsworld.com
 Eugene C. Deshong, Chambersburg, PA e-mail at: glad3@blazenet.net



USS Plymouth Rock LSD29 2004 Reunion Branson, MO September 8-12, 2004

Lodge of the Ozarks		
Free Hospitality Room	Free Continental Breakfast	Three Restaurants
Indoor Pool/Hot Tub	Three Gift and Apparel Shops	Massage Therapist
In Room: Coffee Maker, Hair Dryer, Iron and Ironing Board		

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Check in/ Registration/ Hospitality Room/ Show on Your Own

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

10:00 am - Mickey Gilley Show
 2:00 pm - 50's at the Hop Show

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

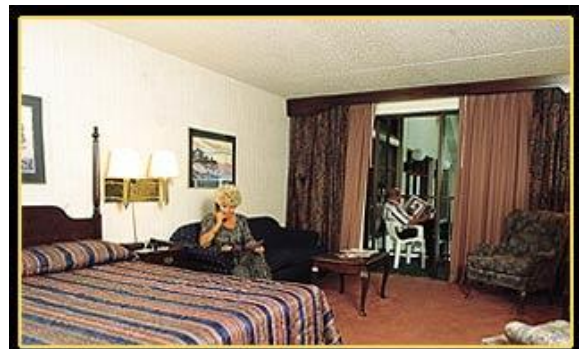
11:00 am - Memorial Service for fallen shipmates-
 Laying of Memorial Wreath
 12:00 pm - Show Boat Branson Bell - 2 hours Luncheon Show
 8:00 pm - Moe Brandy Show

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

2:00 PM Ships Association Business Meeting
 6:00 pm - Banquet Choice of either Prime Rib of Beef or Stuffed Breast of Chicken
 - Picture After Banquet (Digital Camera / will e-mail)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Good Byes



**For further information about reunion:
 Norm Jepsom, 586-755-3814
 Richard Mathis, 870-566-2619**

HOTEL INFORMATION

Lodge of the Ozarks
3431 W.Hwy. 76
Branson MO 65616
1-888-353-3501
www.lodgeoftheozarks.com

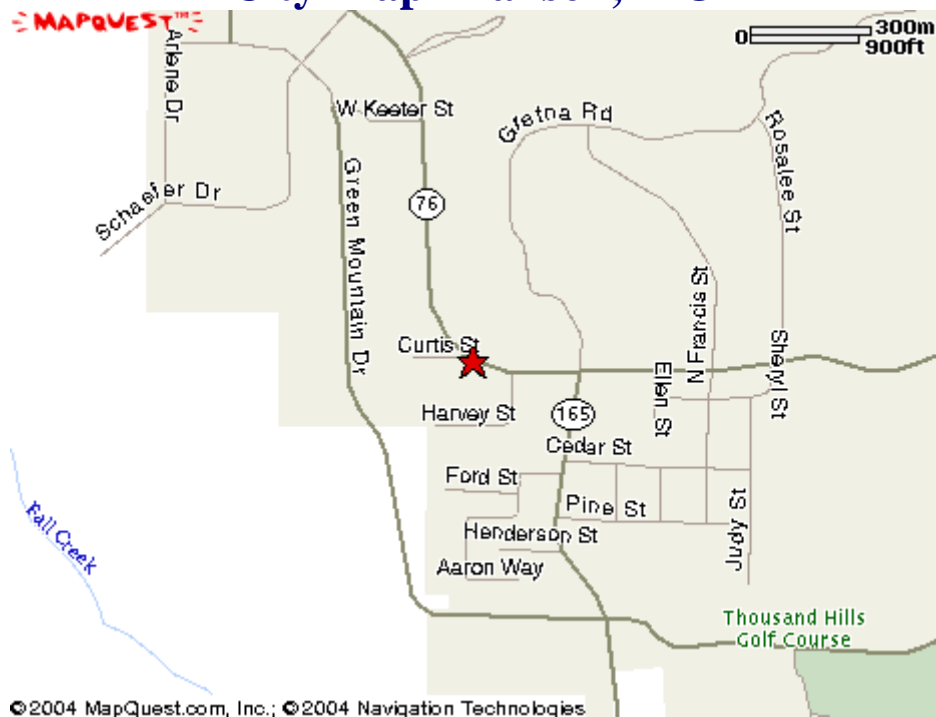


Room Rate: \$80.00 plus tax

The deadline is August 8 (30 days prior to the reunion) for Hotel Reservations

The Lodge would like the reservations called in to take advantage of our special rate
Be sure to mention "The Plymouth Rock Reunion" when you make your reservations

City Map Branson, MO



To obtain driving directions, click Mapquest below
[Mapquest](#)

If you are flying, nearest Airport is Springfield/Branson Airport. Directions are listed below:

1. Begin going E. on I-44 from airport, about 15 minutes
2. Merge onto US-65 south, about 45 minutes
3. Exit onto MO-76/W
8. End at 3431 W. 76 COUNTRY BLVD BRANSON, MO

Registration form is at end of Newsletter (Page 13)



Paid Association Members for 2003-2004

As of April 26, 2004 we now have 127 paid members

The 2003-2004 dues are due, please send dues to Paul Mohawk, Treasurer, make checks payable to USS Plymouth Rock Association. Dues are \$20.00, and run from reunion to reunion. The dues help to support the association with planning and having the next reunion, newsletter printing and mailings, general postage and the cost of maintaining our website on line. Paul's address is found below this list.

Allardyce, John	Andersen, Harry	Baldwin, Brad	Balf, Jim	Bell, Joe
Bello, Ralph	Berry, John	Bena, Joe	Bierce, George	Bild, Robert
Black, Robert	Bjorkman, Ray	Brit, Ben	Buchanan, Richard	Buiak, Peter
Bullington, Calvin	Caldwell, Timothy	Casillas, Greg	Chappell, John	Clark, Robert
Conboy, William	Condinelli, Anthony	Conklin, Robert T.	Conroy, Mike	Cummings, Stephen
Crowl II, Martin	Cypher, Harold	Cyr, Dennis	Czarnetski, Bruce	Czarnetski, Jon
Dalfonzo, Sam	Decuir, Wilton J	Dusault, Andy	Edwards, Maurice	Edwards, R. A.
Eldridge, Margurite	Fisher, Jack	Formaro, Frank	Forton, Andrew	Freeman, James
Gee, James	Goodman, Bill	Greco, Salvador	Gregory, Peter	Grier, Frank D.
Guertin, Jerry	Haines, Ira	Hart, Ed	Hartson, George	Haws, Joe L.
Hill, Edward Jr.	Hofman, Timothy	Hopper, Richard	Howland, John R.	Ishmael, Harry
Janes, Lyle	Jennings, Seeley	Jepson, Norm	Johnson, John	Joyce, Edward
Kaderka, Leonard	Kellar, Harry	King, Ronald	Krolak, Raymond	Kuhns, James
Lamay, Roger	Larson, Jerry J	Leazier, Larry A.	Lillig, Bernie E	Luttrell, James
Madill, Shorty	Mathis, Richard	McAvoy Sr., John	McCully Wade	Mohawk, Paul
Moyer, Larry	Murtha, Jerry	Musella, Rocco	Nichols, Bob	Noto, Ralph
O'Neil, Marty	O'Neil, Thomas	Pihl, Walter	Power, Rand	Pratt, Richard P
Pressler, William	Provencal, Bill	Purvis, Anthony	Pyle, Ted	Raniszewski, Louis
Rhine, Don	Ringer, Joseph	Robb, Barry J	Robertson, Allan	Robinson, Jim
Rose, Christopher	Sandlin, Richard	Scott, William	Sims, Bill	Shanahan, Robert
Shewchuk, Richard	Shober, Robert	Simons, Charles	Smith, James	Smith, Larry
Stackhouse, Norm	Stark, Peter Jr.	Stovall, Jack	Stull, John III	Swathwood, David
Swart, Mike	Swearingen, Ronald	Tacinelli, Jerry	Toungette (McLain), Mike	Tunstall, Van
Tustin, William	Tesh, Sam	Viaene, Robert	Vranesevic, Robert	Wagner, Paul

Wagner, Tom	Walling, Roger	Warwick, Robert	Ward, James	Watkins, Richard
Welsh, Mike	Ziembra, James			

Any paid Association member (2003-2004) who is not on this list and who have paid their dues, please contact Paul Mohawk at 2505 Conifer Ave., Alexandria, MN 56308, or e-mail: hawk@rea-alp.com For those wishing to join the Association and help us out financially you can obtain an application that can be printed on the ships website at www.ussplymouthrock.com All paid dues members receive a hard copy of the newsletter.



Known Deceased Shipmates

For a complete listing visit our Memorial Page in the ships website

Ronald "Ron" Lane, DK3, 67-69	Andrew "Andy" Laird, HM3, 67-69	Joe Rose, SH3, 1961
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This list represents departed Plymouth Rock Shipmates that we have received notification on during the past four months. If any of you know of other shipmates now deceased, who should be on the list, please contact either Bill Provencal, 37 So. Main Street, Pittsfield, NH 03263, or e-mail me at billinp@worldpath.net or Harry Andersen, 2544 Chestnut Street, Waukeegan, IL 60087 or e-mail Harry at andycporetsnipe@aol.com



How to get your Service Record

An individual's complete service record is available to the former service member or, if deceased, to his/her next of kin (parents, spouse, or children). Limited information (such as dates of service, awards and training) is available to anyone. Not available to the general public is information which would invade an individuals privacy: for example, medical records, Social Security number, or present address

The St. Louis Center receives many requests for service records each week, so a request will be processed with greater speed and accuracy if the requester uses a Standard Form 180, "Request Pertaining to Military Records." If requesting the records of a relative, a requester should mention the relationship to the former member (brother, uncle, etc.). There is no charge for this service to former service members or their next of kin. For others, a nominal fee is charged for research and reproduction costs.

You may submit more than one request per envelope or fax, but submit a separate request (either SF180 or letter) for each individual whose records are being requested.

Mail: National Personnel Records Center
 Military Personnel Records
 9700 Page Avenue
 St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

FAX: 314-801-9105

Order Response Time: Routine requests currently require only 2-4 weeks. Requests that involve reconstruction due to the 1973 fire may take longer. Average turnaround time on all requests is currently running at about 12 weeks.



DD214 AVAILABLE ON LINE

Veterans and family members of deceased veterans now can go online to request copies of the deceased's form DD-214, the official Defense Department document of separation from military service. The DD-214 is required to receive a variety of veteran's benefits.

To request the DD-214 to to the National Archives and Records Administration at www.archives.gov/research_room/vetrecs . Users fill out request forms online, then submit a signature via fax/or regular mail.



Thank You's

We would like to thank the following shipmates/friends for providing pictures, information and articles to the website, the association and newsletter.

Ron Swearingen	Patricia Houle	Peter Buiak	Leo G. Hernandez
Harry Andersen			



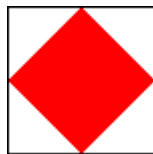
SHIPS STORE

Any individual desiring Plymouth Rock items such as Cups, Patches, etc. are urged to contact Brad Baldwin at 203-374-8213, e-mail jbpts11@msn.com

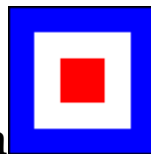


Navy Recruiting Posters





Navy Trivia



Bell-Bottom Trousers

1) The Sailor's bell-bottom trousers, which came to epitomize '60s and early '70s fashion, are actually a practical item for Sailors living aboard ship. The wide, flared, legs are easy to roll up when swabbing a deck or wading through slightly flooded spaces.

2) Commonly believed that the trouser were introduced in 1817 to permit men to roll them above the knee when washing down the decks, and to make it easier to remove them in a hurry when forced to abandon ship or when washed overboard. The trousers may be used as a life preserver by knotting the legs.

Bluejacket

The first uniform that was ever officially sanctioned for sailors in the Royal Navy was a short blue jacket open in the front. A generic name for a Navy enlisted person.

Brightwork

Brightwork originally referred to polished metal objects, and bright woodwork to wood which was kept scraped and scrubbed, especially topside. Bright it should be and work it is.



**USS PLYMOUTH ROCK LSD29, 2004 REUNION
REGISTRATION FORM**

All Show Prices are "Group Prices" (20 or more)

		Price	Number	Amount
Thursday, Sept. 9, 10:00 am	Mickey Gilley Show	\$18.00		
Thursday, Sept. 9, 2:00 pm	50's at the Hop Show	\$18.50		
Friday, Sept. 10, 12:00 pm	Branson Show Boat	\$39.00		
	Transportation	\$ 8.00		
Friday, Sept. 10, 8:00 pm	Moe Bandy Show	\$15.00		
	Transportation	\$ 8.00		
Saturday, Sept. 11, 6:00 pm	Banquet			
	Prime Rib of Beef	\$25.58		
	Stuffed Breast of Chicken	\$19.18		
		Total Amount	Due	

**Make check or money order payable to USS Plymouth Rock Association and mail to:
PAUL MOHAWK
2505 CONIFER AVENUE
ALEXANDRIA, MN 56308**

Name _____ **Years on Board** _____

Spouse/Guest _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____ **Phone** _____

Emergency Contact _____ **Phone** _____

E-Mail Address _____

Disability / Dietary Restrictions: _____

Are You Staying at the Hotel? (Please Circle) YES NO

Are you (Please Circle) FLYING RAIL DRIVING RV