

Historical Photo Tour of Kittery and Portsmouth

*Presented by
David Kaselauskas*

Winter Semester

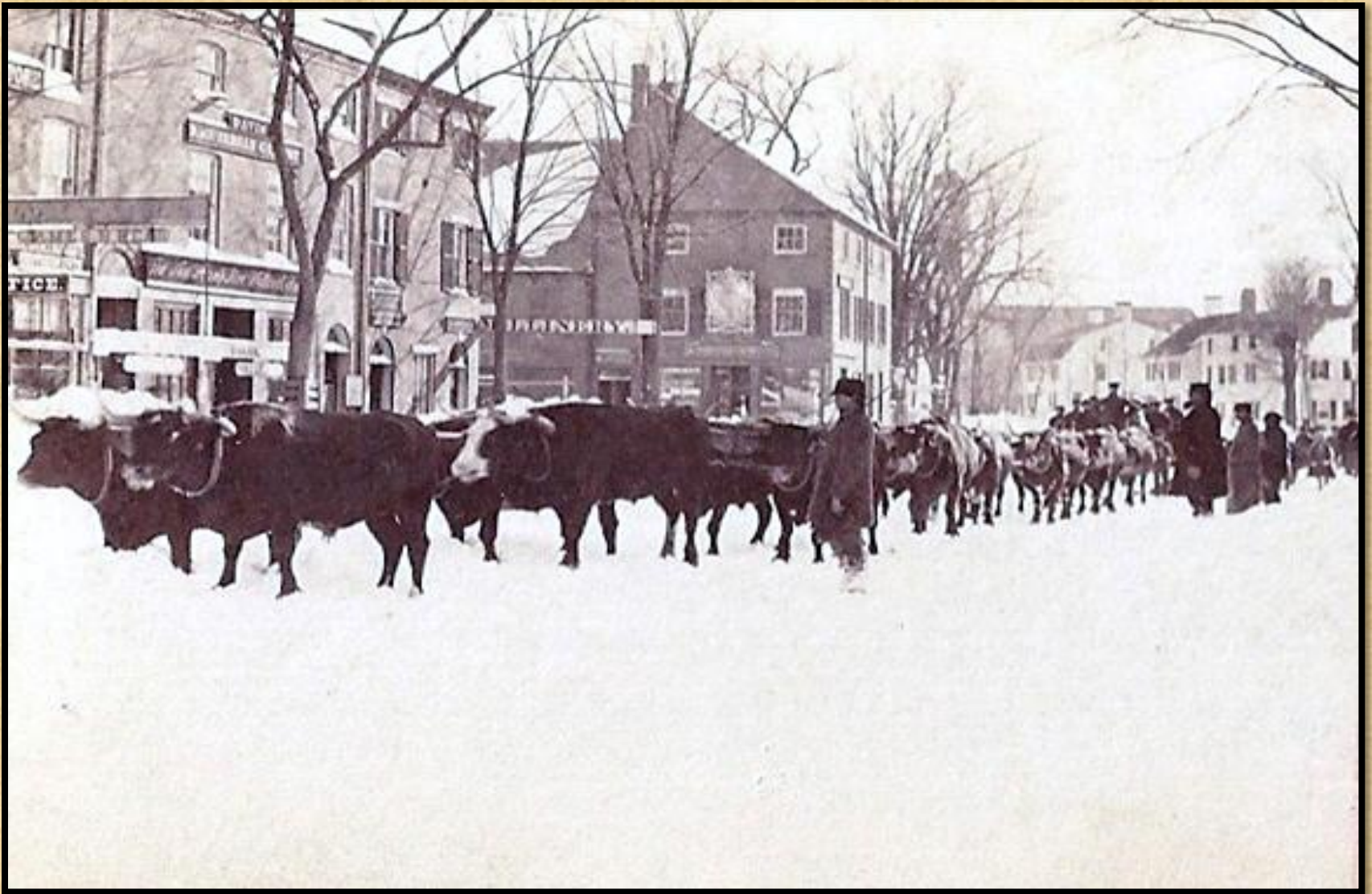
**This session will consist of photos from both
Kittery and Portsmouth.**

**I have selected a group of photos that
illustrate what Kittery and Portsmouth
looked like about 100 (+ or -) years ago.**



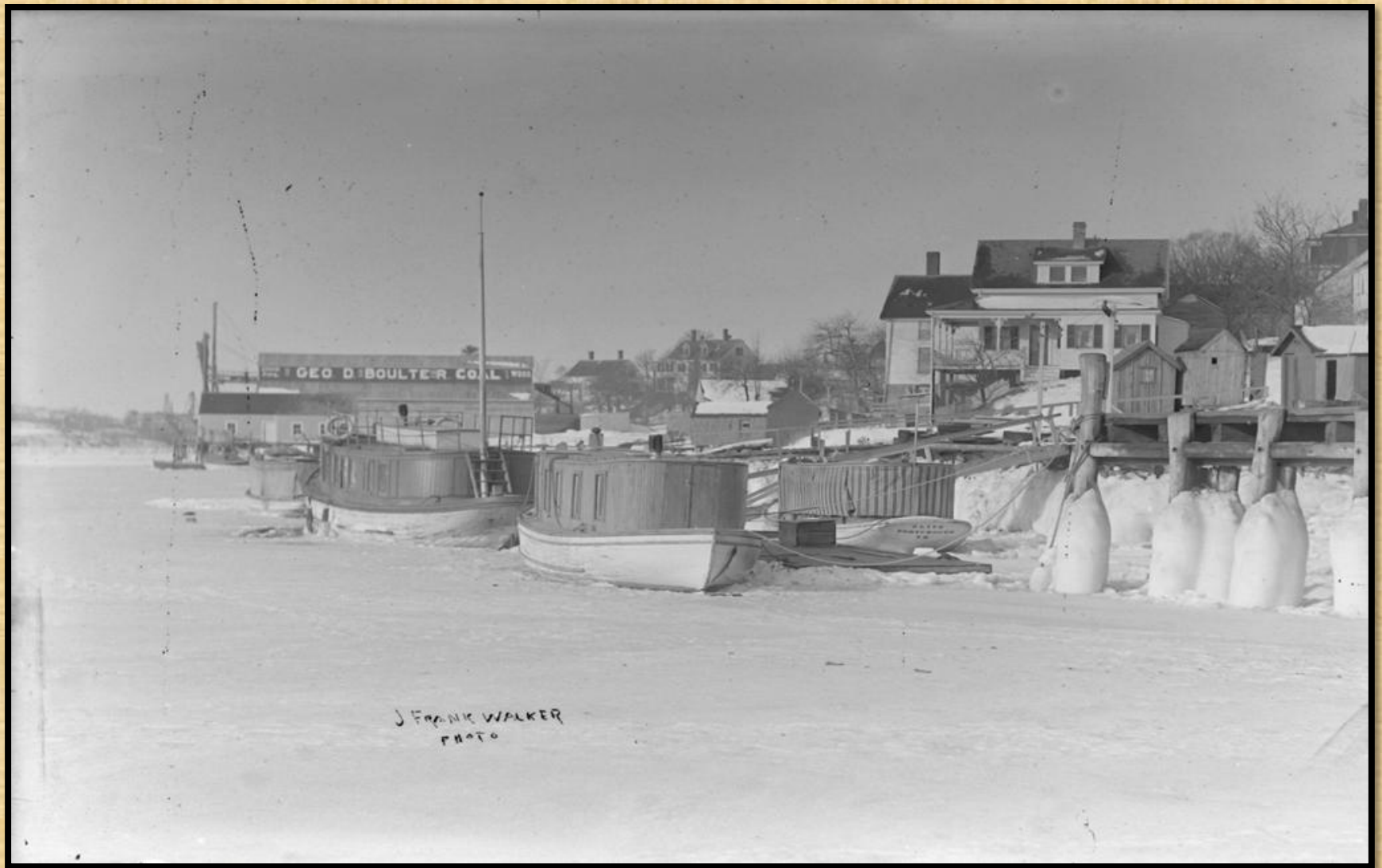
Young boy shoveling snow with a wooden shovel

I just acquired one of these shovels, and I would like to point out that they are not fun to use.



Teams of Oxen “breaking the roads”

The oxen would break up and trample the snow while they pulled a large roller which would further compact the snow in order to make the roads passable.



Boulter Coal Shed in the background on the back channel

It doesn't get much colder than this....today the Sea View Lobster
Company occupies the location.



Looking across the back channel towards the navy yard

The large building that is in the background is no longer there. It burned in a spectacular fire that was said to have illuminated all of Kittery.



Navy Yard Ferry became frozen in the river

During the same cold snap, the Navy Yard Ferry became frozen in the river, and the passengers used planks to continue to work. There were no snow days back then. This occurred February 11, 1918.

The sailing vessel's worst nightmare was a storm.

Unlike today's powered vessels, sailing ships were unable to maneuver when overtaken by strong winds.

These photos illustrate what happens when Mother Nature takes over.

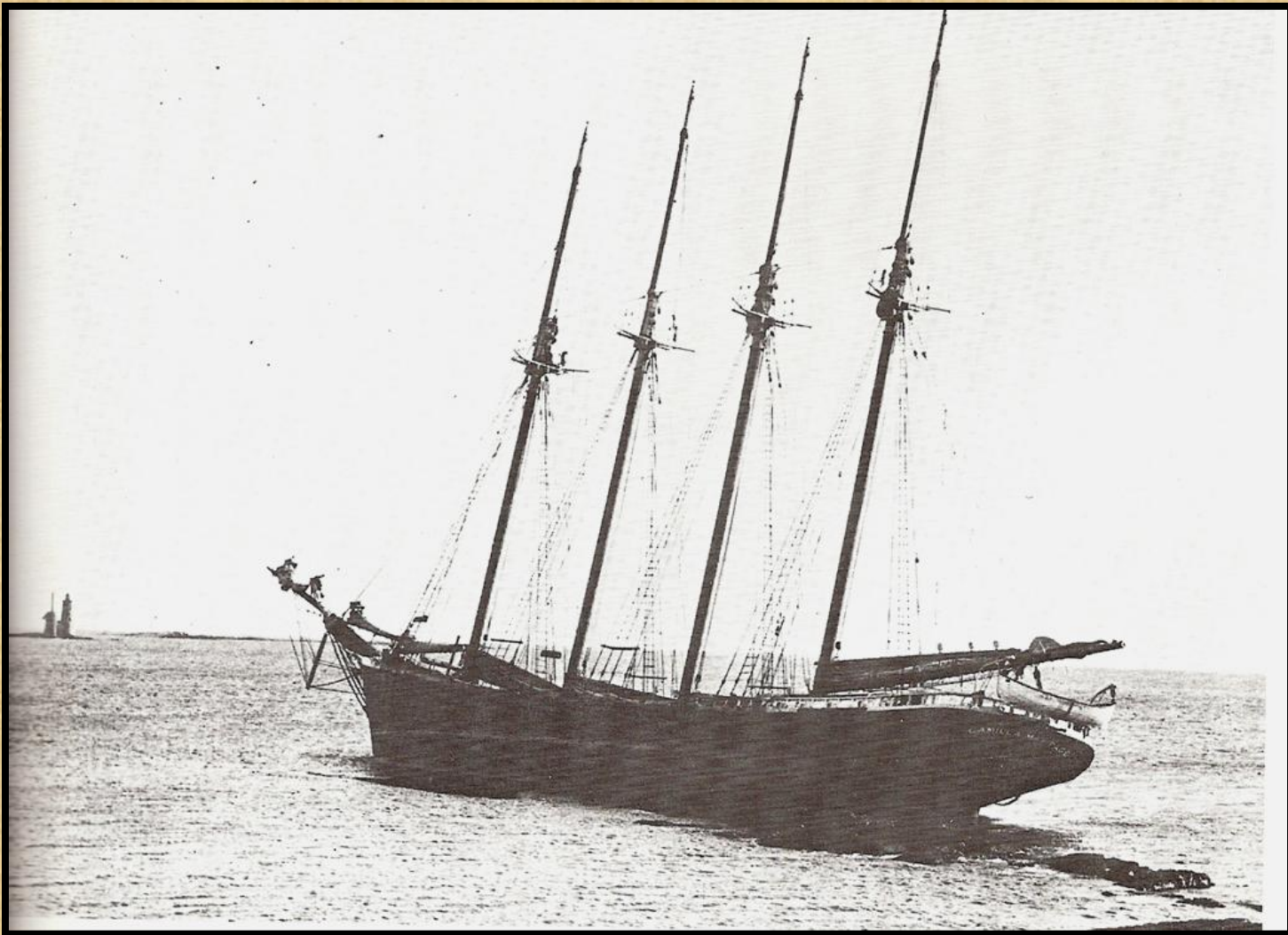


The wreck of the Polly, at Ft, McClary, on December 7, 1890

This painting is by George Savory Wasson, an artist who lived in Kittery Point from 1880 to 1920. At the time of the beaching, the Polly was the oldest American-built vessel still sailing. It was rescued, repaired and returned to service for another 25 years after this beaching.



In the background of this photo you can make out what is today Frisbee's Wharf and Moore's Island. I have recovered three old anchors in the past years where this boat is located. You probably had to make a reservation to go ashore at this location before a storm.



Here we can see in the background Whale Back Lighthouse. This vessel is on the New Hampshire shore near Odiornes Point. A large number of ships would anchor just outside Portsmouth Harbor as they do today. When a storm occurred, they would drag their anchor, and this is where they would end up. Before Wood Island Life Saving Station was constructed, there was a station at Jerry's Point which was on New Castle, near Odiornes Point. The Jerry's Point station received a congressional medal for rescuing the crew from the Oliver Dyer – a memorable week if there ever was one!



In these next two photos, I am focusing on a building that some of us remember as Dr. Kinghorn's Office. Today there appear to be apartments there. To those of you who do not know Kinghorn's Office, it is the building with the pillars, at the entrance to the Navy Yard by Gate No. 1.



Looking at this photo and the previous photo, notice how the building was turned 90 degrees to its present position. This was done in order to widen the road. The rest of the details are for your scrutiny.



Government Street, approximately 1900.



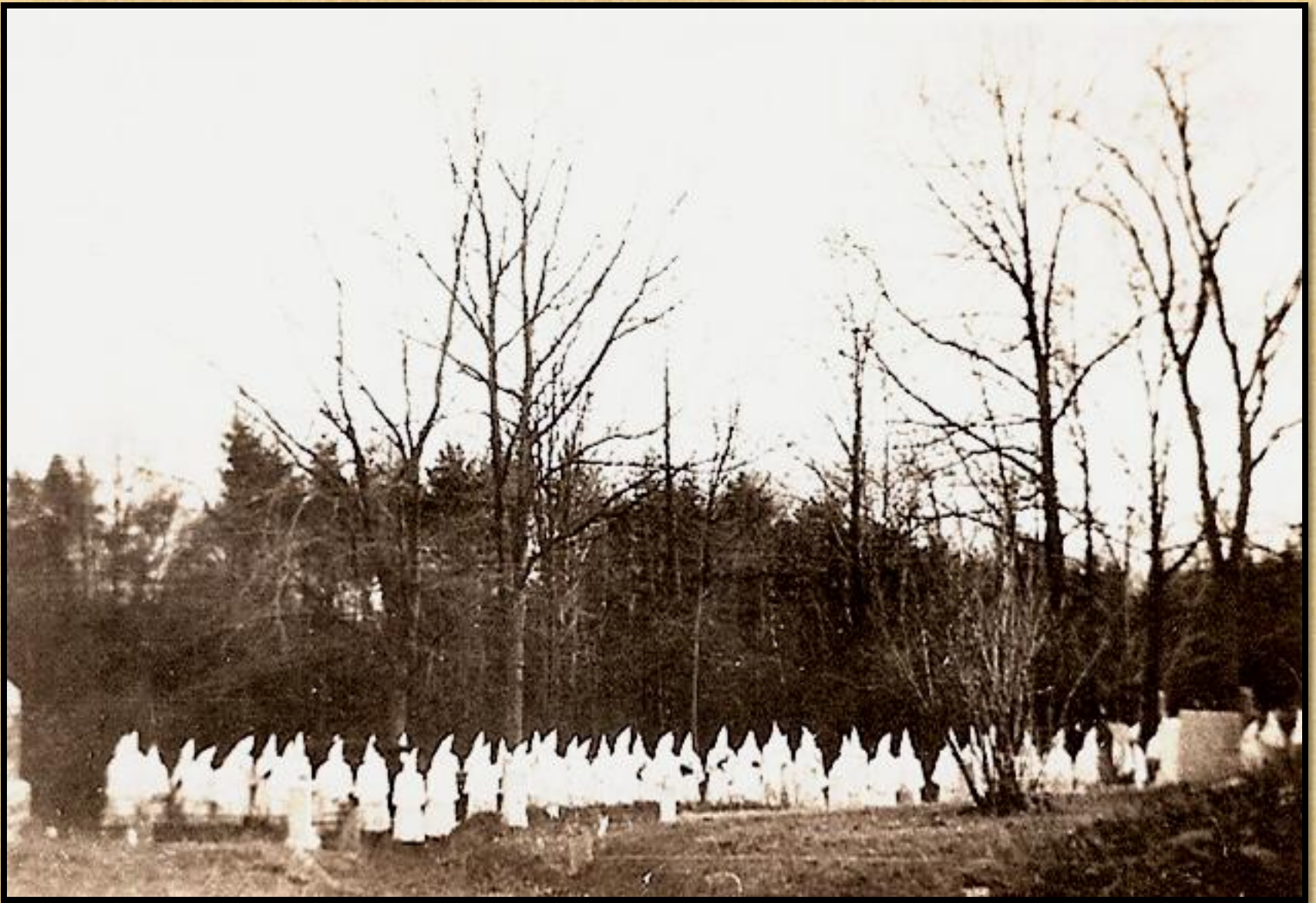
Protesting the construction of St. Raphaels Church in Kittery

Please note Dr. Kinghorn's office in the background with the pillars.

Notice the shoes – most of the protesters were women.



One of these photos was made into a postcard which can be seen, upon request, at the Kittery Museum



Baptist Church Cemetery behind Mitchell School in Kittery Point

This was probably a rehearsal.



This beautiful home was torn down to make way for the Kittery Court House, which is now the Rice Library Annex. It was the home of the Honorable Moses Safford, a prominent lawyer and politician of his time. The sign hanging over the door at the rear of the house was the entrance to his law office. This sign now hangs in the Kittery Museum. Moses was very instrumental in the construction of the Rice Library, and it is fitting that his home is now the site of the library annex.

No tour of the Seacoast would be complete without mentioning the Navy Yard. Established in 1800, it offers a wealth of history. Fortunately, we have a large selection of photographs that have been taken over the years to document important and not-so-important moments.



Before television, before theater news reels, before photography, people went to events in order to witness the moment. Here we see a large group of people at the Kittery Town Wharf, which is still located in downtown Kittery, waiting for the launch of one of the Navy Yard's submarines.



The launch of a submarine from the Franklin Building

The house these people are standing on was, at one time, Gus Alley's home. Many of you may remember Gus, a colorful lobsterman who owned the Leonard W., which at one time was the fastest lobster boat in the State of Maine.



**Here we see a boat, overloaded with sailors, heading for a better look at the launch.
Take note of the comfort station at the head of the pier.**

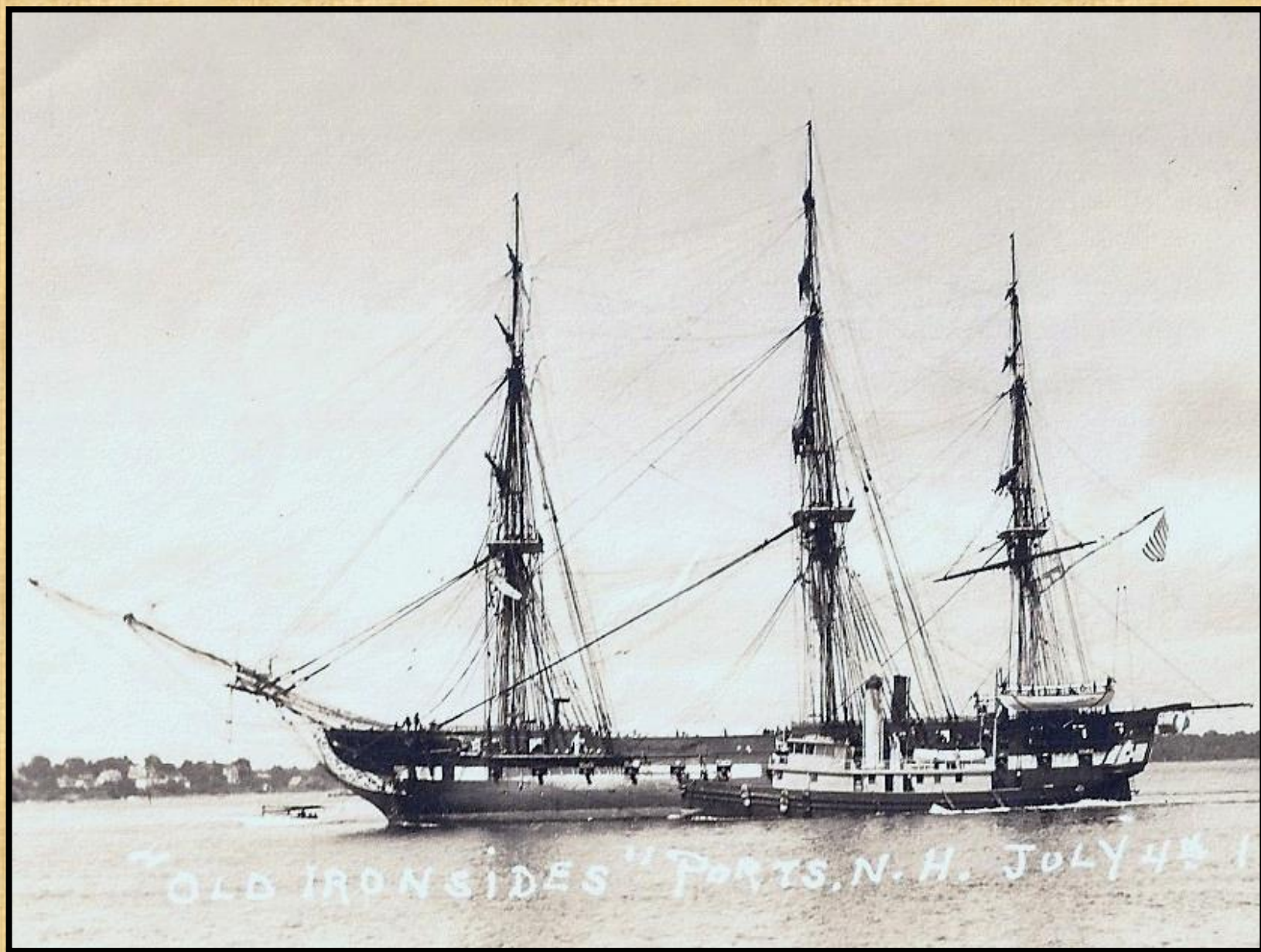
**The USS Constitution is one of
the most famous ships
associated with the Navy Yard.
The following three photos
documents it's time at the yard.**



This picture is of a painting by George Wasson. Wasson was primarily a marine artist and enjoyed the old sailing ships. At the time the painting was done, the USS Constitution was converted into a work barge



These next two photos show the Constitution in 1931 returning to the Navy Yard. The Naval Prison was 23 years old when these photos were taken. When constructed it, it was the largest solid concrete building in the world.

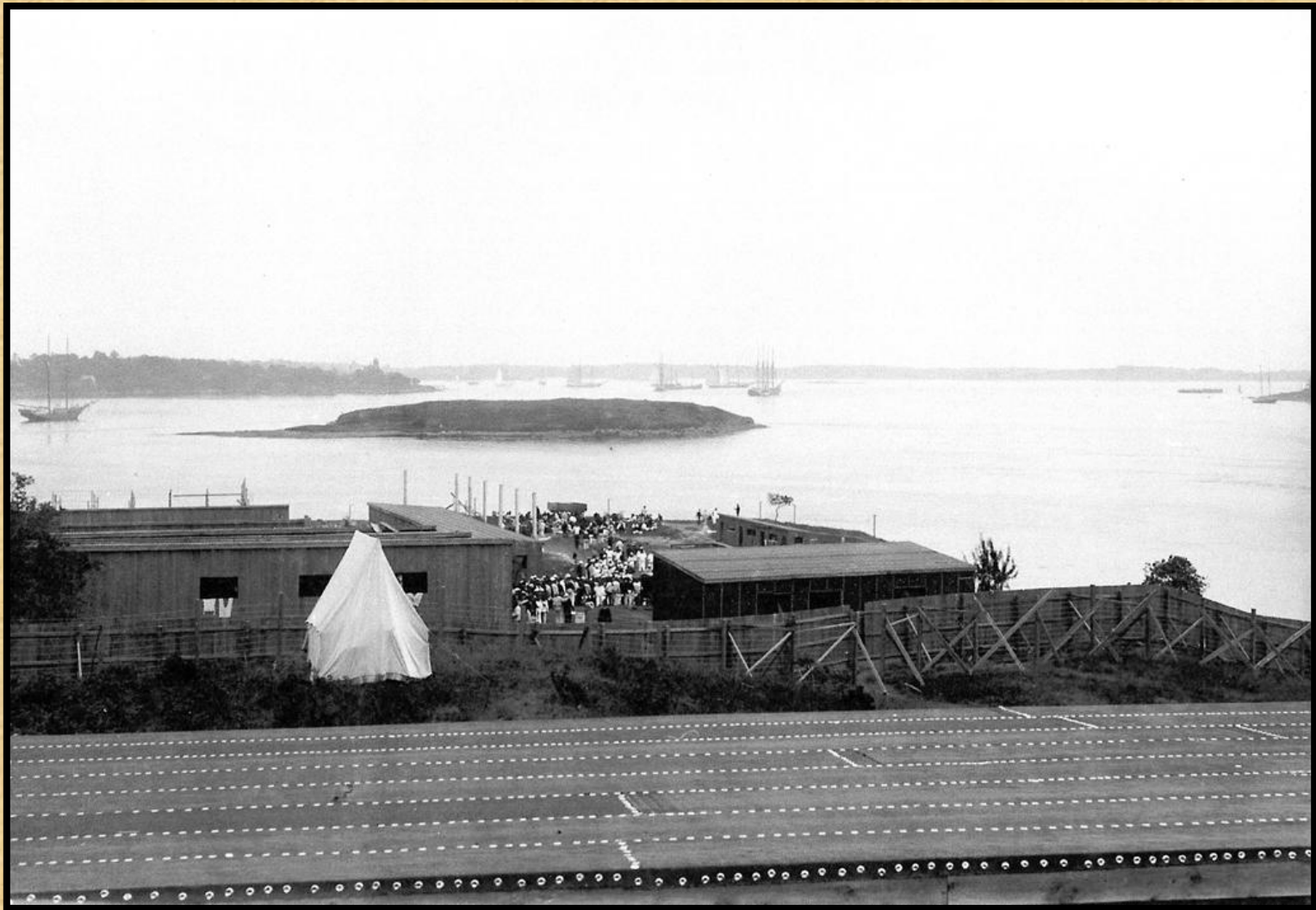


OLD IRONSIDES" PORTS. N. H. JULY 4th 1891

**During the Spanish American War the Navy Yard
served as a detaining site for the Spanish
prisoners.**

**They were housed at the site where today stands
the naval prison.**

**The best view of the prison is from the New Castle
bridge.**



**This photo was taken from the hill where today the naval prison stands.
The prisoners were housed in the make-shirt barracks and tents.
The island in the background is Clarks Island. Notice the ships at
anchor, with Kittery Point in the background**



Here we see a routine day in the prisoners' lives. It appears that a fishing derby is in progress.



“Adios Americanos” is written on the back of this photo. This was the day that the prisoners were leaving for home – all packed and ready to ship out

The next two photos were taken from in front of, what is today, Bob's Clam Hut on Route 1 looking north towards York.

You'll notice the shovel leaning against the bridge railing. That was the shovel they used for the ground-breaking ceremony, which signified the beginning of our beloved malls.





J. FRANK WALKER PHOTOGRAPHER

I would like to thank all of the people who have contributed to my, or should I say, our collection of old photos. My goal is to put together, in one place, as many old photos of Kittery and Kittery Point for our children and their children to enjoy. These pictures are the only windows to the past and must be shared by all.

I am indebted to the following people for helping me put this collection together. They are, in alphabetical order:

Chuck and Peg Dentremont

Dennis Estes

Steve Estes

Frank Firsbee, Jr.

Joe Frost

John Hackney

Steve Kehl

Margie and Ed Leake

Charles Lynch

Wayne Manson

Manson Estate

Peter Narbonne

Greg and Jackie Rivers

Rice Library

Joyce Tobey