

**Finding aid for**  
**Lake Champlain Maritime Museum: *Lois McClure* Collection**  
**Date range: ca. 1800-2023**  
**Bulk dates: 2001-2019**

Finding Aid created by Lois McClure Archivist  
Copyright Lake Champlain Maritime Museum

**Creator:** Lake Champlain Maritime Museum

**Extent:** 5.5 linear feet (6 boxes, 14 shelves, 2 wall hangings, one pallet, and 8 unshelved items)

**Abstract:** The records of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum *Lois McClure* Collection include correspondence, events files, newspaper clippings concerning the project, construction, and touring years, photographs, banners, exhibit signs, ephemera, flags, staff t-shirts, exhibit props and antiques.

**Call number:** I.Loisp.2023 – Lois Room, Basement of Owen Center  
I.Loisl.2023– Lois Room, Basement of Owen Center (Legacy Collection)

**Language:** The material is primarily in English with some French

**Acquisition Information:** These records were created by or given to those working and volunteering for the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum as part of the *Lois McClure* Burlington Schooner Project. The records and objects incorporated in this collection were created or came to the museum starting primarily in 2001. Future additions to the records are expected as oral histories and Memory Box submissions are created.

**Access Restrictions:** The record group is open to research.

**Copyright:** Copyright remains with the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum

**Cite as:** [item], folder, box, *Lois McClure* Collection records, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum.

**Brief History:** The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, established in 1985, is dedicated to its mission to “preserve and share the cultural and natural heritage of the Lake Champlain region” by serving its broad community through “learning experiences, exhibits, and collections.” In 2001 the Museum launched the *Burlington Schooner Project*, an ambitious endeavor to build a

replica canal schooner based on local shipwrecks and archaeological analysis. Its purpose was to traverse the region's waterways, using annual themed tours to share history and lessons regarding the ecosystem to students and the general public. The *Lois McClure* was constructed from 2001-2004, launching in Burlington, VT on July 3, 2004. The replica schooner sailed waterways in Vermont, New York, and Canada from 2004 through 2019, returning to the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum campus in 2020. This collection holds a wide variety of objects from the many stages of the project including planning, construction, research, touring, post-touring, and legacy. The *Lois McClure* was run by a combination of volunteers and trained crew members and objects in this collection reflect their efforts. These records were created and deposited by the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum.

This collection contains both physical and electronic documentation, with the majority of the construction and early touring years, from 2001 through roughly 2008, being found within the physical archive then making a switch to largely an electronic archive. Access and ease of use regarding digital photo capturing and electronic documentation accounts for this change. The collection continues to grow both electronically and physically with the additional of oral histories, photographs, objects, and other remembrances of the *Lois McClure* from previous crew and volunteers.

**Scope and Content:** The records of the Lake Champlain *Lois McClure* Collection include physical and electronic documentation of events before, during, and after the schooner's construction and tours. The strength of the collection is found with its photographs, newspaper clippings, Captain's Logs, Welcome Aboard pamphlets, final reports, and several physical objects. These series give a historical overview of the project, an explanation of each touring year's theme, alongside capturing the involvement and the impact the *Lois* and her crew gave to visitors at each stop along the way.

The photographs series ranges from 2001 to 2019 and include both electronic and physical printed photographs, framed and in albums, taken by crew and volunteers. Images from 2001-2004 showcase the schooner's construction at the Burlington Shipyard at Perkins Pier and launch in Burlington, VT. Images from July 3rd, 2004 onward document the annual tour alongside any repairs that needed to be made to the *Lois McClure* or the CL Churchill tugboat. These photos are filed by date both electronically and in physical album collections.

This collection was compiled over time with photos, logs, objects, records and related memorabilia being added with each port of call. Volunteers and crew members would take photos or be gifted items such as postcards showing historic images of the locale that were then kept aboard the *Lois* and became part of the collection.

The newspaper clippings in the collection begin in 2001 describing the project and stretch through 2022 as plans for the retirement of the *Lois* were in progress. Early clippings are found

in the physical collections in folders filed by date. As electronic media grew throughout the ensuing decades physical newspaper clippings decreased and were instead replaced by electronic files sorted and stored by date.

The Captain's Logs are a series of daily posts written by those aboard the *Lois* throughout the entirety of the schooner's touring years. Posted as an online series, at the end of each touring season the Captain's Logs were featured in the tour's annual report and printed out as part of the collection. These can be accessed both physically and electronically and are filed by date.

The Welcome Aboard Pamphlets are documentation that provided each visitor to the *Lois McClure* important contextual information about the history of the Burlington Schooner Project and the historical theme of the year's tour. Core pieces of the Welcome Aboard documentation would remain the same with minor design updates, but key historical features changed annually with amendments to the tour's mission. Physical and electronic copies are found in the collection and are filed by date.

The final reports are a compilation of the most important features of the year's tour. This report may include features such as a note from Art Cohn, former executive director of the museum, a summary of the mission and scope of the tour, major events along the tour, the Captain's Logs, profiles of the *Lois McClure* crew, visitation numbers, and a note about annual sponsors. These reports are not as consistently created as other documentation such as photographs, newspaper clippings, or the Captain's logs. Where they exist electronically and physically they are filed by date.

There exists a wide array of physical objects and artifacts with the *Lois McClure* Collection due to the scope of the project. Spanning the past and present, objects include items such as a hardhat used during construction and repairs to the *Lois* and Churchill, awards given to the *Lois McClure* during the tours, and artifacts from the 19th century that would have been found on a canal schooner or owned by people and families who lived aboard them. These physical objects are stored on shelves in the Lois Room.

Once the *Lois McClure* returned to Basin Harbor a call was put out seeking objects, writings, photos, and recollections of the schooner in the form of a Memory Box. This electronic Memory Box became the basis of the next stage of the *Lois*' collection: the Legacy Collection. Here items which reflect on the historical resonance and personal impact of the *Lois* are documented and preserved. As this aspect of the collection continues to expand, they are located electronically and stored in boxes labeled "Legacy" within the Lois Room.

## **Contents Listing**

**Box 1** Physical contents 2000-2001

**Box 2** Physical contents 2001-2003

**Box 3** Physical contents 2004–2007

**Box 4** Physical contents 2007-2011

**Box 5** Physical contents 2012-2022

**Box 6** Physical contents HR Documentation

**Bookshelf 1** Slides and slide trays for presentations, bound logs and research booklets

**Bookshelf 2** Photo albums, address book, Lois on board library collection, ships records, bound research

**Binder Shelf 1** Binders for touring years

**Binder Shelf 2** Regulatory printouts, CFRs, operation manuals

**Stand Alone Shelf** Artifacts, peppermint box, doll, chair, wicker baskets, donation boxes

**Metal Shelf 1** Maps, hand-drawn posters, and paper construction blueprints

**Metal Shelf 2** Tour & exhibit banners, 2001-2011

**Metal Shelf 3** Tour & exhibit banners, 2011-2019

**Metal Shelf 4** Framed objects, photos, plaques, and awards

**Metal Shelf 5** Rugs, flags, crew t-shirts

**Small Shelf 1** Cast iron pot, compass, glasses, utensils

**Small Shelf 2** Wicker baskets, hardhat, cup and saucer

**Small Shelf 3** Wooden bowl and woven basket with handles

**Small Shelf 4** Red lantern and two cast iron pots

**Wall Hanging** Metal basin and Lois McClure banner

**Unshelved Items** Storage, commode, prop boxes

**Legacy Contents Listing**

**Legacy Box 1** Twenty two printed photographs, one electronic personal reflection with accompanying photographs, six brief text submissions to the Memory Box