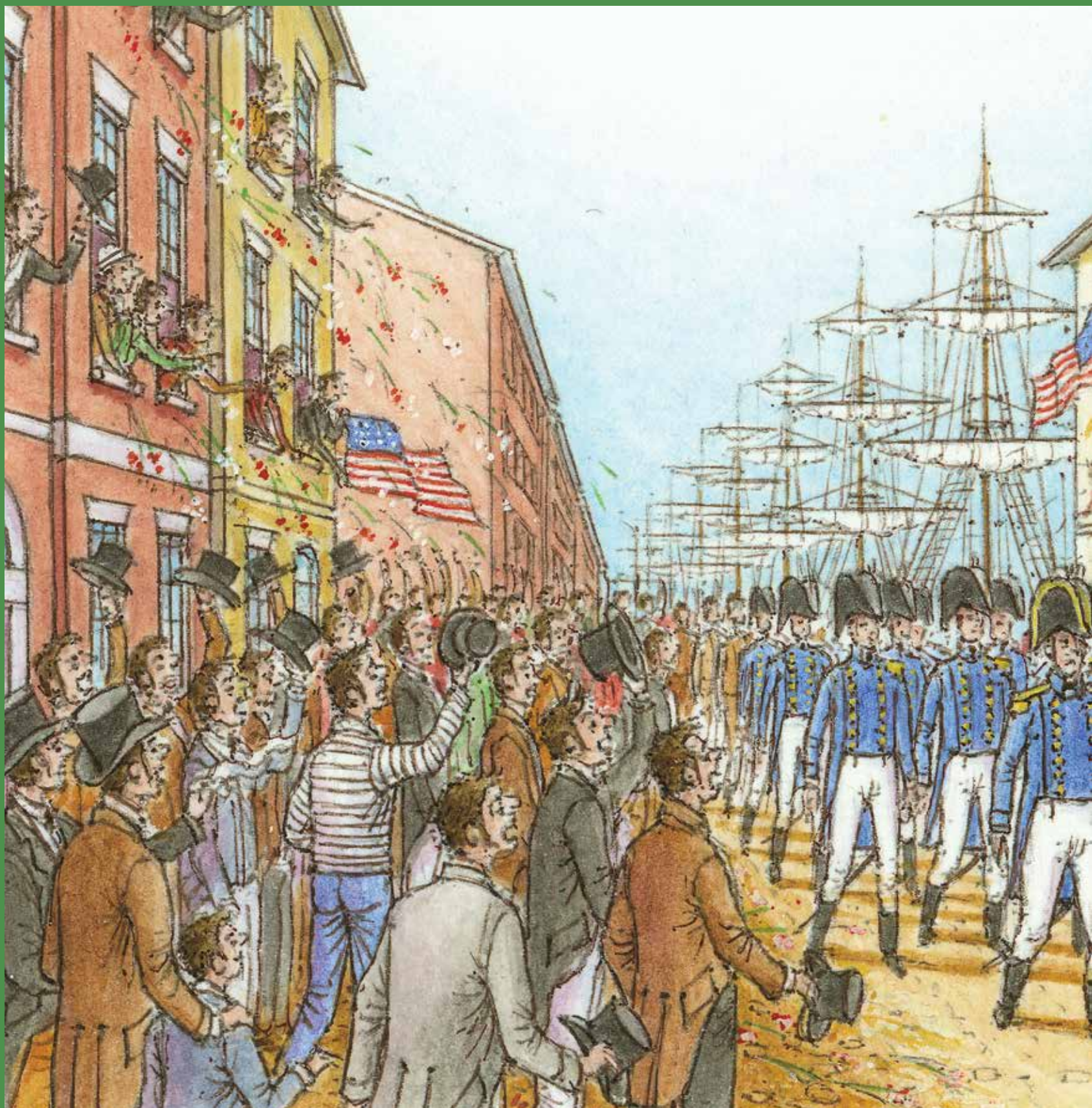
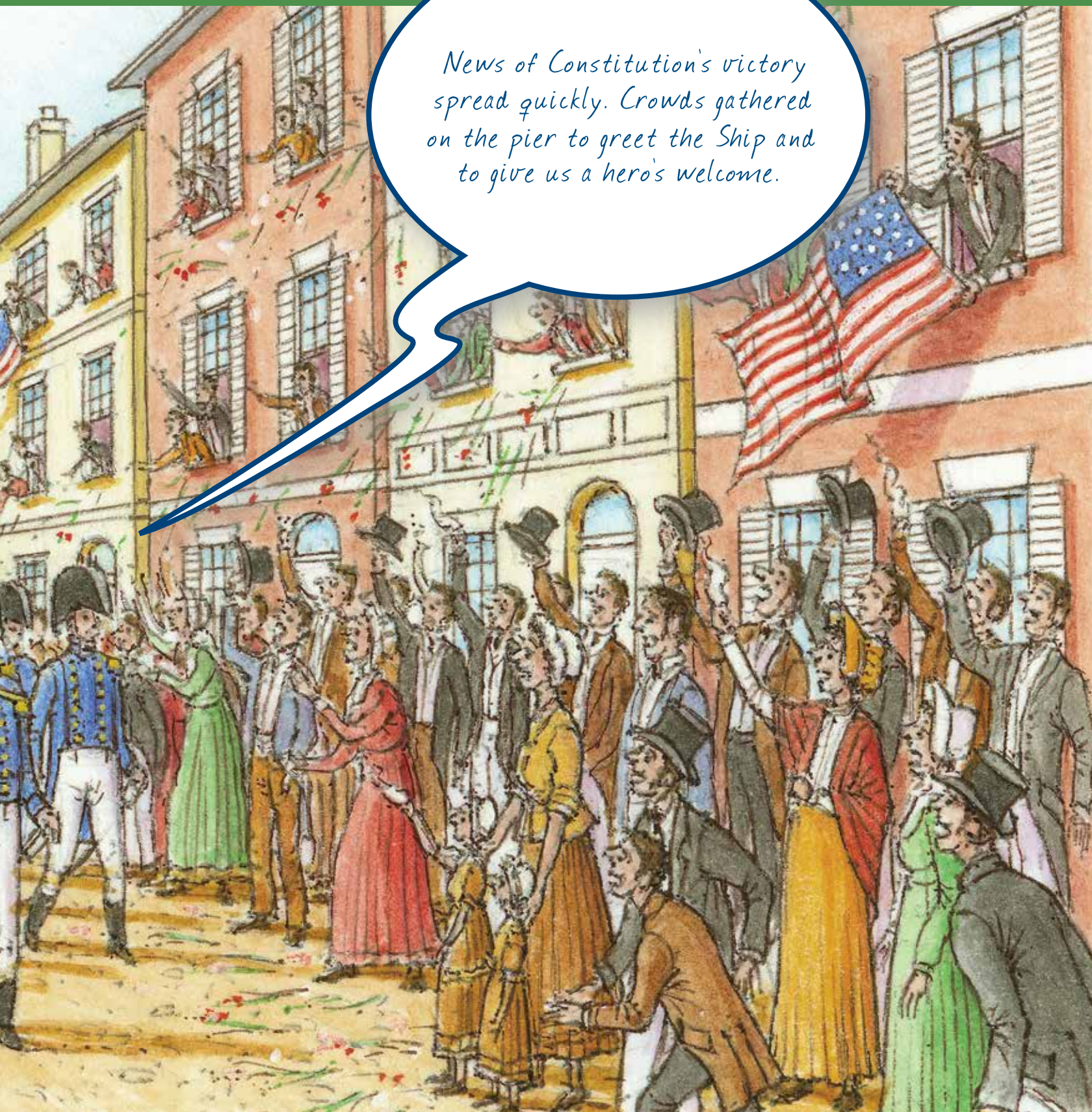


RETURN HOME



News of Constitution's victory spread quickly. Crowds gathered on the pier to greet the Ship and to give us a hero's welcome.



A ship becomes a symbol

After USS *Constitution*'s string of surprising victories over the British during the War of 1812, Americans no longer saw "Old Ironsides" as an ordinary warship. Instead, the Ship became a symbol of the country's strength and proof that the young nation would succeed.



In My Own Words

"She has been a good friend to many a worthy tar and carried them through long and perilous cruises and done more honor to herself than any other ship in the Navy."

- Midshipman Pardon Mawney Whipple, 1814

In My Own Words

"Let us keep Old Iron Sides at home. She has, literally, become a Nation's ship, and should be preserved in honorable pomp, as a glorious monument of her own, and our other naval victories."

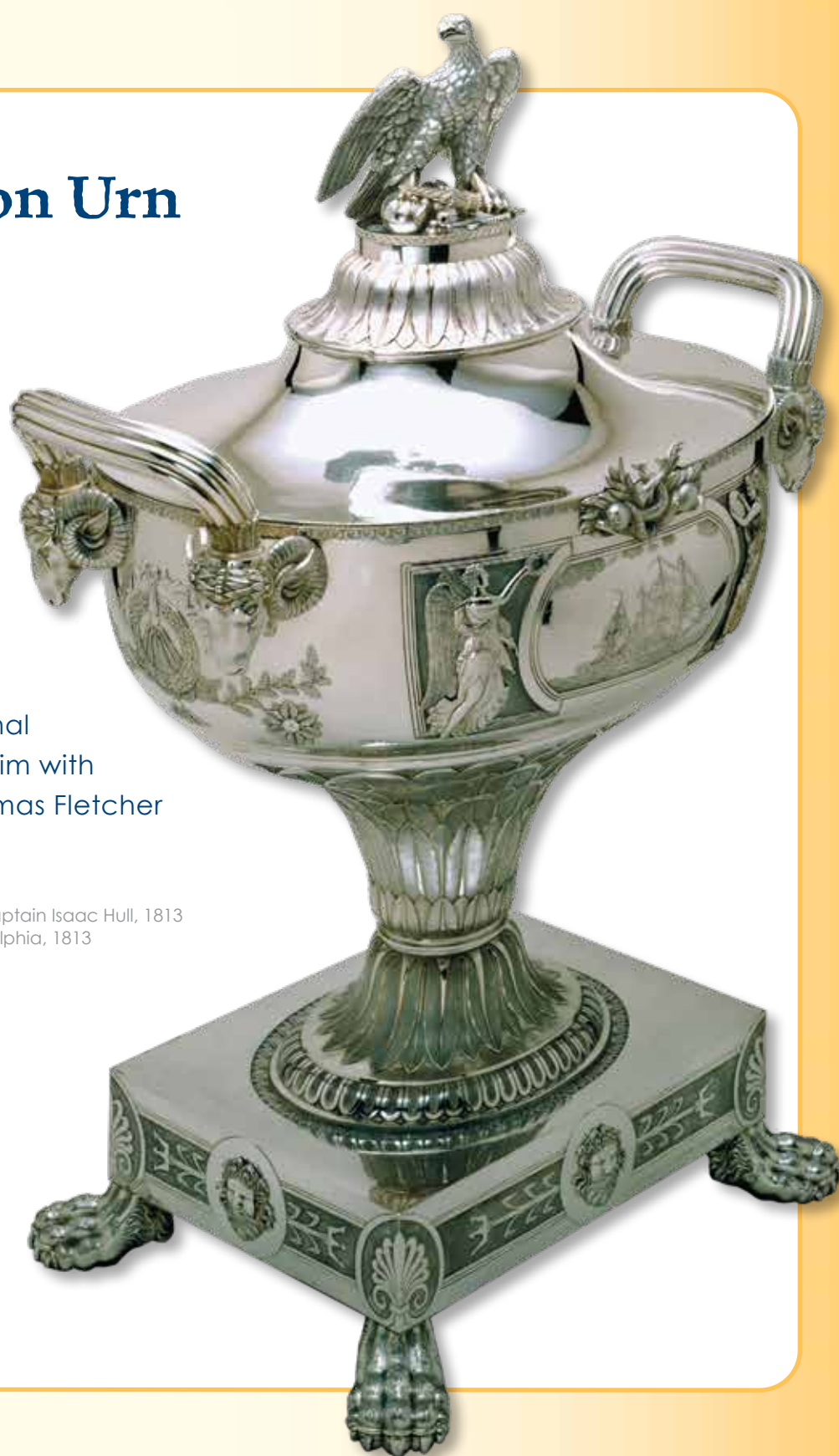
*- National Intelligencer
May 23, 1815*



Presentation Urn

Captain Isaac Hull's success in the *Guerriere* battle made him a national hero. A grateful nation presented him with gifts like this silver urn made by Thomas Fletcher and Sidney Gardiner.

Silver Urn presented by the citizens of Philadelphia to Captain Isaac Hull, 1813
Made by Thomas Fletcher and Sidney Gardiner, Philadelphia, 1813
Private collection

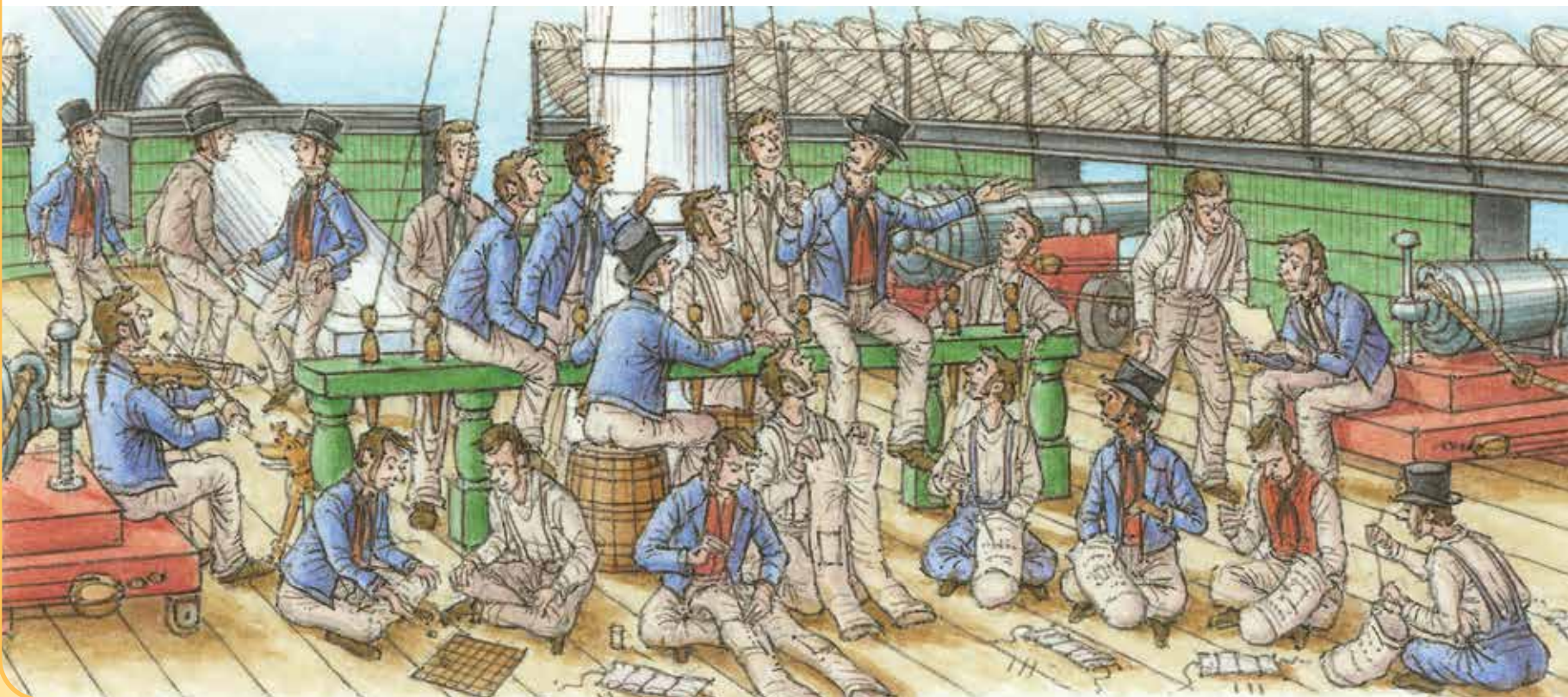




Sing a Victory Song

The song depicted here was printed shortly after *Constitution's* victory over HMS *Guerriere* on August 19, 1812. Set to the tune of "Yankee Doodle" it celebrates the brilliant naval victory when *Constitution* earned the nickname "Old Ironsides" and became a national symbol.

This song was sung in taverns across the country. Give it a try and sing along. Create your own song set to the tune of "Yankee Doodle" to celebrate an important moment in your family's life.





THE AMERICAN
CONSTITUTION FRIGATE'S

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE BRITISH FRIGATE GUERRIERE,

Which after an Action of 25 Minutes, Surrendered, and being completely Shattered, was blown up, it being impossible to get her into port.

COME jolly lads, ye hearts of gold,
 Come fill your cans and glasses,
 Be fun the order of the day,
 A health to all our lasses.
*Yankee doodle keep it up,
 Yankee doodle dandy,
 As hot as British folks can sup,
 We'll give it to 'em handy.*

The Constitution long shall be
 The glory of our Navy,
 For when she grapples with a foe,
 She sends her to old Davy.
*Yankee doodle keep it up,
 Yankee doodle dandy,
 We'll let the British know that we
 At fighting are quite handy.*

Not long ago Five British Ships
 Unto her gave a chase sir,
 But spite of all their quips and cranks
 She beat 'em in the race, sir.
*Yankee doodle, keep it up,
 Yankee doodle dandy,
 Though ten to one, the Yankee boys
 At fighting are quite handy.*

At length the British ship Guerriere,
 Quite proudly came across her,
 And Dacres said, in half an hour,
 In air he'd surely toss her.
*Yankee doodle, keep it up,
 Yankee doodle dandy,
 He counted chickens ere they hatch'd,
 Because the eggs were handy.*

But soon, alas! poor Dacres, found
 That he was quite mistaken,
 And thought he got himself well off,
 By saving of his Bacon.
*Yankee doodle, keep it up,
 Yankee doodle dandy,
 The Yankee boys for fighting fun,
 Are always quick and handy.*

And now begun the bloody fray,
 The balls flew thick and hot sir,
 In half an hour the job was done,
 The Guerriere went to pot sir.
*Yankee doodle, keep it up,
 Yankee doodle dandy,
 The British didn't like the fun,
 And quit soon as 'twas handy.*

Now here's a health to **CAPTAIN HULL**,
 And all his noble crew sirs,
 And should he choose to fight again,
 His lads will see him through sirs.
*Yankee doodle, keep it up,
 Yankee doodle dandy,
 For riddling British ships I'm sure,
 Brave HULL is quite the dandy.*

New safe in Boston port we're moor'd,
 Our girls with smiles shall meet us,
 And every true American,
 With loud huzzas shall greet us.
*Yankee doodle, keep it up,
 Yankee doodle dandy,
 Our brave commander sir we'll toast,
 In punch, and wine, and brandy.*

What happened to the sailors?

USS *Constitution*'s sailors returned victorious three times during the War of 1812. Sailors enjoyed their success and received extra pay called prize money. Eventually, they returned to their ordinary lives with just the memory of an extraordinary moment.

Not all sailors were so lucky. Some were injured in battle, and others didn't return at all.

William Bush



Lewis Bush learned of his brother's death in a letter:

"[William Bush] mounted the taffrail, sword in hand and as he exclaimed 'Shall I board her' received the fatal ball in his left cheek... Thus fell that great and good officer who when living was beloved & now gone is deeply regretted by his country & friends but he died as he lived, with honor to both." - John Contee, Lt. Marines, September 13, 1812

A descendant of Lewis Bush carried this letter with him while serving in World War II to gain strength from the memory of his brave ancestor. The letter is now in the collection of the USS Constitution Museum.

David Debias



I joined *Constitution*'s crew at the tender age of eight. At thirty-two I was serving as a sailor on a merchant ship when it stopped at a port in Alabama. Although born free in the North, officials there suspected I was a runaway slave and imprisoned me. Every day is a nightmare as I wait for proof of my Navy record to arrive and I am free again.

A lawyer sent a letter to the Secretary of the Navy pleading Debias' case and requesting that his Navy record be sent to his captors as proof that he was not a slave. The Secretary of the Navy responded, confirming his naval service and status as a free man.



Richard Dunn

I suffered a terrible wound in my leg during the battle with *Guerriere* and the surgeon sawed it off. Because of this, I received a lifetime pension of \$6.00 per month and Captain Hull collected \$1,000 in donations for me. And for the next 25 years, he found me work at every navy yard he commanded.

Dunn died at age 76 on February 1, 1863.



Pardon Mawney Whipple

Serving in the Mediterranean in 1821 I rescued ten sailors from storm-toss'd boats. Though these deeds brought me some glory, I now realize they were rash because – perhaps as a result – I contracted the Wasting Disease. This has ended my service in the Navy, and I fear may also end me.

Whipple's worst fears came true when he died from tuberculosis in 1827 at the age of 37. In his will, Whipple left his French books and his shell and mineral collection to his sweetheart, Eliza.



Jesse Williams

I helped *Constitution* earn victories over *Guerriere* and *Java*. Later I fought in the successful Battle of Lake Erie for which my state of Pennsylvania awarded me a medal. My luck ran out while assigned to USS *Scorpion*. The British captured us and we became prisoners of war until the peace treaty was signed.

Williams received the equivalent of 2 1/2 years of wages in prize money. He slips out of history after 1830, when he was living alone in Strasburg Township, Pennsylvania.



Play the *Constitution* Challenge

Are you ready for a promotion? Test your seafaring knowledge to find out.

You will need:

Constitution Challenge game board (in back pocket or download from the "Hands-on Activities" link on www.asailorslifeforme.org)

List of questions (Go to the "Hands-on Activities" link on www.asailorslifeforme.org to print the questions needed)

1 die

Playing pieces (select pieces from another game or use something you have around the house such as buttons or coins)

How to play:

Put player pieces on the "start" square.

The youngest player goes first.

After rolling the die, move the appropriate number of spaces forward.

Depending on the roll, a player will land on either chance spaces or yellow spaces.

- **Chance spaces** are the squares with images and directions. Example, "For bravery in battle, roll again."
- **Yellow spaces** require answering a question.
 - » The person to the right of the player reads a question.
 - » If the question is answered correctly, the player moves ahead one space.

To get promoted and win the game:

The winner of the game is the one who lands on the end square first with an exact roll.



Did you know?

USS Constitution is the oldest commissioned warship afloat in the world. Launched in Boston in 1797, she saw service in the Quasi War with France, the Barbary Wars, and the War of 1812, emerging with an undefeated record. In 1997, in honor of the 200th anniversary of her launch, *Constitution* sailed under her own power for the first time in 116 years. She was made America's Ship of State in 2009. Today, you can visit USS *Constitution* in Boston, MA year round!

Visit the Ship's website at:

www.history.navy.mil/ussconstitution/



The **USS Constitution Museum** is an award winning museum that invites visitors of all ages to participate in the story of "Old Ironsides" through hands-on exhibits and dynamic programming. Come swing in a hammock, fire a cannon, furl a sail, or scrub a deck to see if a sailor's life is for you. Located next to USS *Constitution* in Boston, the Museum is open daily.

Go to www.ussconstitutionmuseum.org to plan your visit.