

cc: Dr. E. Ralph ✓

THE HAAS COMMUNITY FUNDS

1819 JOHN F. KENNEDY BOULEVARD, SUITE 330  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19103

215 - LO 8-2870

JOHN C. HAAS  
F. OTTO HAAS

WILLIAM KOHLER  
RICHARD K. BENNETT

July 26, 1968

Colonel W. W. Watkin, Jr.,  
District Engineer,  
Department of the Army  
Philadelphia District Corps of Engineers,  
Custom House -2nd & Chestnut Streets,  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19106

Dear Colonel Watkin:

During the battle of Fort Mifflin two British warships, the Augusta a 64 gun ship-of-war and the Merlin of 18 guns, were sunk. The University Museum is interested in making a search with magnetometers to find the present resting place of the ships and their guns.

I am wondering whether the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, in its endeavors to keep the channel of the Delaware river open, has ever come across these ships or has ever recovered any of the guns. I am enclosing a copy of the map which shows the probable spot where the ships were sunk.

Any information which your office might be able to give would be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

W. Kohler

WK:D



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
CUSTOM HOUSE-2 D & CHESTNUT STREETS  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

IN REPLY REFER TO

NAPOP-N

20 August 1968

Mr. William Kohler  
The Haas Community Funds  
1819 John F. Kennedy Boulevard  
Suite 330  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

Dear Mr. Kohler:

This is in reply to your letter of 26 July 1968 concerning the search for the British Warships AUGUSTA and MERLIN. Inclosed, from our files, is a copy of a map showing the location of these sunken vessels. This map locates the vessels in Mantua Creek Anchorage, Delaware River.

This anchorage was dredged to project depth of 37 feet under Government contract by American Dredging Company. Our records indicate that certain wrecks were encountered during this dredging, and it is suggested that you contact the American Dredging Company at 12 South 12th Street, Philadelphia, Pa., to obtain additional information on this subject.

Sincerely yours,

  
CARL C. CABLE

Acting Chief, Operations Division

1 Incl  
Map

Fro - Sat. 9:30 - 10:00

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JOHN C. HAAS  
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WILLIAM KOHLER  
RICHARD K. BENNETT

*Beth Ralph*

August 23, 1968

*We better do this  
in his time - the  
best people are  
financing to  
reach our  
work.*

Dr. Froelich Rainey, Director  
The University Museum  
University of Pennsylvania  
33rd & Spruce Streets,  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19104

Dear Fro:

You may recall that several weeks ago we discussed our interest in the salvage of the two British Warships which sank during the battle of Fort Mifflin. You offered at that time the help of the staff of the Museum in particular the use of a magnetometer.

*Fro  
Sunk Nov. 17  
1777  
during  
siege of  
Mud Island  
went aground  
on Jersey  
side*

In the meantime I have tried to obtain additional information on the present location of the wrecks and have received the enclosed information from the U. S. Corps of Engineers.

We would very much like the University Museum to make an investigation which would tell us whether salvage of these ships is worthwhile and how much it would cost.

There seems to be some doubt whether the wrecks found in the Mantua Creek are actually the remains of the Augusta and the Merlin. I suggest that the Museum get in touch with Mr. Theodore Leydon, Curator of the Philadelphia Maritime Museum, who has additional information and has offered his cooperation on this project.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

*W.K.*

W. Kohler

*WA 5-5469 or WA 5-5440*

WK:D

*call Dr. Giekengack 6333 ↔*

Walter Crotee  
10/10/68

Objective -

Our objective is to obtain or recover, preserve, identify, study, document, exhibit and inform the public about selected material and artifacts relating to maritime history, and especially that which relates to the Delaware Valley. We devote special attention to the past and present history making activities of man under the sea.

Our exhibits and informative programs communicate to the public in general and to young people in particular a knowledge of the rich maritime heritage of our nation and the vital role of the Delaware Valley in maritime history.

Obtaining and Recovering Material and Artifacts -

The effort required to obtain or recover suitable material varies from practically none at all to, in the case of underwater artifacts, the employment of hundreds of thousands of dollars in engineering, expensive floating plant, sophisticated electronic gear and underwater recovery personnel and equipment. The amount of funds that should be employed in these activities must be carefully evaluated in relation to the results that can be expected.

It is proper to first establish the amount of effort and funds that can be devoted to the other essential activities of a successful program.

Supporting Facilities, Activities and Personnel -

In order to conduct a properly balanced program the following must be considered:

Management - Arrangements must be made for the employment of knowledgeable and competent program management.

Staff - Supporting personnel are needed for field expeditions and archive research, book, map and document care, preservation and display work, communications, document and report preparation, teaching and custodianship.

Space - Space is needed to attractively display material, to house research activities, books and documents, to prepare and study the artifacts and for classroom work.

Funding -

Funding is needed to support the above activities and for the acquisition and display of appropriate maps, books, photographs and documents relating to the program.

XXXXXXX  
3867400

July 18, 1969

Mr. Kenneth Myers  
Box No. 7  
1003 Belle Chase  
Louisiana

Dear Mr. Myers:

Last summer Col. Krotee told me that you had done a magnetometer survey on the Delaware River in the vicinity of Fort Mifflin.

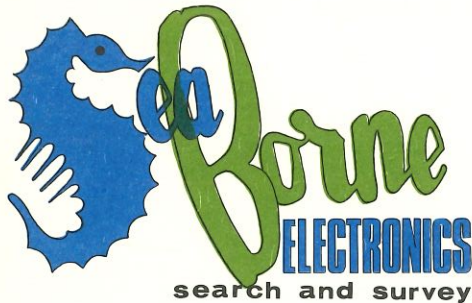
This year there seems to be renewed interest in the sunken ships, so I have been asked to look for some that may now be under earth near the airport. However, it seems pointless to repeat what you have already done, and I am wondering if you have a map of the area which you covered, or even better, one which shows the anomalies that you found. If you do not have it, perhaps, you could tell me who does.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth K. Ralph

EKR/mrb

Area Code 504--3681977  
362-6280



August 28, 1969

P.O. BOX 7 · BELLE CHASSE, LA. 70037

Miss Elizabeth K. Ralph  
University of Pennsylvania  
33rd and Spruce St.  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Miss Ralph,

I have done some surveys in the Delaware River however I have not covered the area that you referred to in your letter of July 18th. The survey that I conducted was one for the location of the "DeBraak" near Cape Henlophen. We did locate the "DeBraak" and it is now being salvaged by D & D Salvage of Delaware. We also located for The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia this past January Captain Cook's cannons on the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

We are presently surveying between Alligator Reef and Tennessee Reef in the Florida Keys trying to locate for Continental Explorations Corp. The "Atocha" which was lost in 1622 by the Spanish. We have also worked in Lake Erie and the East Coast doing various Marine Archaeological surveys.

We use standard Varian and Gulf Fluxgate magnetometers with penetrating profiling transducers and have recently developed a useable Marine Caesium Gradiometer System that is capable of 1 gamma in 20 ft separation full scale or a better measure would be the detection of a single ballast rock at 10 to 15 ft.

If I can be of any assistance on the project to which you refer feel free to contact me here or by phone if necessary.

Sincerely,

*Kenneth Myers*  
Kenneth Myers, President  
Seaborne Electronics

# MIFFLIN

The purpose of the forts was to defend Philadelphia from attack by water. After the Battle of Brandywine on Sept. 26, 1777, however, the British occupied Philadelphia. But with the forts still in Continental hands, the British couldn't bring food and supplies up the

Delaware River. After Fort Mifflin fell, 4500 British troops, sent from Chester to Billingsport, N. J., attacked Fort Mercer from the south. The garrison of less than 600 was forced to abandon the entrenchments.

