



National Historic Landmark

# Cabin Notes

*Friends of the Governor Stone, Inc.*

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August 2017

## History - Remembering John Curry

He passed away this summer at the age of 93! John was outstanding among the many who, over the last 140 years happened on the *Governor Stone* and fell in love. He and his wife's relationship with the vessel began in 1965 when they purchased her for \$2,500. She needed work. As a mechanical engineer, John was well suited to take on the challenge. They learned to sail her in Lake Pontchartrain. Discovering some of her illustrious past, they decided to uncover the rest by travelling to where it happened. Repairs were done at Landry Boatyard in Bayou le Batre, where she had spent most of her oystering years. Following two laborious and letter-filled years the vessel was reregistered with her original USCG No. 85508. John enjoyed, sailed and worked (as a sponge boat) the vessel for several years then restored her to more traditional configurations and, in 1984,



won 3 silver plates at the Tampa Antique Boat Show. In 1988 the *Governor Stone* was offered to Pascagoula and Jackson County, Mississippi, her birthplace. When that proved unfeasible an ad John placed in a sailing magazine led to the sale of the

vessel for \$1 to the Apalachicola Maritime Institute in 1991. John financed a major restoration prior to delivery. He has also contributed to the support of the vessel and followed her travels since then, sailing at her launch 2014.



Fortunately, others have fallen for the *Governor Stone* over the years. She still needs, and will always need, work. Remember how it felt when you first sailed on her? Or just think how you will feel when you do. There is nothing like it. There is nowhere else you can have that experience. Please help see that she continues to sail, for John.

## From the President –

**It's a celebration 140 years in the making. Please join us for a street party on Bayview Avenue Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2:00-4:00 pm. A highlight of the afternoon will be the presentation of the National Historic Landmark bronze plaque by the National Park Service. Happy Birthday to the GOVERNOR STONE!**

--Kay Cherry, President

Friends of the Governor Stone, Inc.

## Bay County Historical Society



The Friends of the Governor Stone and curator Penny Daffin have mounted an extensive display in the window of the Bay County Historical Society Museum, 133 Harrison Ave., Panama City. It is viewable through the Birthday Party, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Museum is open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 10-1. A more modest display is always on view there, at the Publishing House Museum in St. Andrews and at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida in Valparaiso.

## Who are we, the Friends of the Governor Stone?

A small group of people, headed by Virgie Thompson, founded the Friends of the Governor Stone in 2005 to receive the vessel from the Friends of Eden Gardens State Park. It had proved untenable to keep the *Governor Stone* at the Park. Incorporated as a non-profit in 2007, this volunteer organization has taken responsibility for the future of this vessel. Past presidents, in order of service are Virgie Thompson, Captain Dick Gercak, Nancy Wengel, Harry Dennard and Katie Cherry. The Friends of the Governor Stone, Inc. restores, preserves and maintains for the benefit of the general public, the sailing vessel *Governor Stone*, a designated National Historic Landmark. Our mission is to highlight and share the history of waterfront communities by sailing and exhibiting the 1877 Schooner *Governor Stone* along the Northern Gulf Coast. Some of our members serve on our Board; some volunteer at work days; some captain and crew the vessel. Some members donate their time in other capacities including maintaining the non-profit organization that maintains the boat. Some are members simply to donate to a very worthy cause. We are in 12 states and Canada! There is room for every lover of fine and aged sailing vessel in the Friends.

## Welcome New Members

Diana Newman          Jennifer & Dakota Curry  
Dave & Kim Evans      Gary Jay  
Stacey, Randy, Gavin & Lucas Storey  
Janice Bowman          Mark Robinson  
Steven P. Dokken      Les Cole

## Our renewing members are our strength

Gale Heuring                  David Crosby  
Frank & Pamela Virciglio      Jo Maxhimer  
Jess, Lisa & Nolan Palmer      Raquel McBroom  
Frank & Jewel Menge          Carl & Mercedes Updyke  
Bill Lloyd                      John & Suzanne Schmitz  
Karen Azzaro & Gregg Pennington      George Sholl  
Roger Bybee & Gathana Parmenas

### Dues Schedule for Members

Encourage your friends to support the *Governor Stone*

\$25-49 ~ Swabby (individual)  
\$50-99 ~ Bosun (family of up to four)  
\$100-249 ~ Old Salt  
\$250-500 ~ Salty Dog

We welcome a commitment at any amount. These funds go toward maintaining the vessel and the organization.

**[Click here to join.](#) [Click here to renew or go to GovernorStone.org/membership.](#)**

**Keep the *Governor Stone* salty by joining at or upgrading to our Salty Dog level.**

All levels receive our newsletters and annual stickers. Members receive email notices to sign up when the vessel sails. Memberships are tax deductible per federal tax laws.

*Thought is the wind, Knowledge is the sail and Mankind is the vessel.*

*--Augustus Hare*

## Wish List

In this issue we are just wishing the *Governor Stone* the very happiest of birthdays. Her first registration was October 18, 1877.

## First Saturday Work Days and Second Saturday Sails

Weather has not always permitted it over the summer, but FSWD's and SSS's are proceeding whenever possible. Join in. Get involved. Sail.

## Smile

Make all your Amazon purchases at [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com) or mail donations to Friends of the Governor Stone, Inc. P.O. Box 15968, Panama City, FL 32405. Donations are tax deductible per federal tax laws.

OR

**Donate  
to the  
GS  
Here**

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**Meet the 2017  
Friends of the  
Governor Stone  
Board**

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**President**  
**Kay Cherry**  
Semi-retired  
Administrator  
**Vice President**  
**Bill Lloyd**  
Retired Marina Director  
**Secretary**  
**Amanda Huft**  
Family Support Worker  
**Treasurer**  
**Jo Maxhimer**  
Office Manager  
**Cal Allen**  
Artist/Gallery Owner  
**Dean Covey**  
Ret. Chemical Engineer  
Community Advocate  
**John Huft**  
Educator  
**Rory Jones**  
Lifeguard  
**Sondra Groom**  
Marine Maintainer  
**Dave Clark**  
Retired Military