



The LOOKOUT

SEAMEN'S
CHURCH
INSTITUTE
of NEW YORK

Volume XVI
Number VI

June
1925

The Lookout

Vol. XVI

JUNE, 1925

No. 6



A Stranger's Strange Story

THIS is Coenties Slip. About three blocks or squares away from what was once the dwelling of Captain Kidd. Being on shore leave and sheltered by the roof that covers such as me—a lone, friendless, I was not unhappy—or uneasy—I had per-

haps better say—until the consciousness of someone following me—one late night as I strolled up and down the Slip.

Did I say that being Scotch one pays some attention to voices, to footsteps, to the consciousness of the "white people." They, as you know, are those who come back to make known their desires of us for help. I have always carried a caul—a very old greatgrandmother was born with it over her face. Her husband being a seafaring man carried it during his voyages. It is safe to have about, warding off all perils of the sea. Handed down through the family I became the possessor of it in the year 1907—my first voyage. As I said, voices are not new to me. A story told by the old Scotch people is that when a wrong needed redressing by the quick from the dead there walked with one the wronged to tell his story. And one had better listen.

So I am setting down this—my story of a certain shore leave in New York. Of course, I had heard of Captain Kidd—a pirate bold he was to me—a hearsay of the sea. Why should I be driven forward and back from Coenties Slip to Pearl Street, India House, Fraunces Tavern? Why should I be haunted by a dream of Captain Kidd of whom I have never read nor yet seen a picture? But my nights have been filled with him, my days now trying to piece by daylight his shade story of this old locality.

(To be continued)



Editor's Note:

Captain William Kidd (1650-1701), the son of a Scotch minister, was born in Greenock in 1650. He followed the sea from youth, and in early life distinguished himself for bravery as the captain of a privateer in the war between France and England during the reign of William III.

After the war the depredation of pirates upon English commerce became so extensive that a company was organized in England in which William III, several noblemen, including the Earl of Bellamont, Governor of the Province of New York, were interested. They fitted out an armed vessel, "The Adventure," in which Captain Kidd sailed, armed with two Royal Commissions, in 1696. He cruised off the American coast, occasionally entering New York, and finally sailed for the East Indies and the east coast of Africa.

Upon his way, it is said, he turned pirate, forthwith commencing a career of plunder and outrage among the shipping which frequented the coast

of Malabar and Madagascar, returning in 1698 with a large share of booty to New York. He took the precaution to bury a large portion of his treasure on Gardiner's Island at the east end of Long Island, and subsequently went to Boston, where he boldly made his appearance in the streets, not doubting that under his commission he could clear himself from any charge of piracy.

Such, however, had been the scandal which the report of Kidd's depredations had caused in England, that the Earl of Bellamont, governor of Massachusetts and New York, and one of the shareholders in the enterprise, caused him promptly to be arrested and conveyed to England for trial. The charge of piracy was difficult to prove; but having been arraigned for killing one of his crew in an altercation, he was convicted after a grossly unfair trial, and hanged at Execution dock. His name and deeds have been interwoven into popular romance, and form the subject of the well-known ballad commencing: "My name is Captain Kidd, as I sailed, as I sailed."

The treasures he had left were secured by Bellamont. But according to popular belief this constituted but a tithe of all he had collected, and down to the present time the shores of Long Island Sound and various parts of the banks of the Hudson River continue occasionally to be explored in the hope of discovering the abandoned wealth of the great pirate.—(*Encyclopedia Americana and Britannica.*)

In the "Real Captain Kidd", by John D. Champlin, Jr., he is said to have been the most respected of merchants and ship owners, that he lived at the corner of Pearl and Hanover Streets, a famous house in New York at its time, that also he owned property on Water Street between Old Slip and Coenties Slip. He was married to Mrs. Sara Oort, probably the richest widow of colonial days. He is said to have been made the scapegoat for the Earl of Bellamont and others who were interested at first in obtaining him his commission and helping finance the original expedition he commanded.

The Joseph Conrad Memorial

At a meeting of the Building Committee held May 11th, it was decided to dedicate the main reading room in the new building as a memorial to Joseph Conrad, the late novelist. Perhaps no one was closer to the heart of the seaman than this man, who has been called the universal "master of sail and steam"—possessor, guardian, and translator of all the legends and the lore of the sea.

It was decided to devote \$100,000 to the project, the amount to be raised by popular subscription, half will be needed in the construction of the room, the other half for endowment to maintain it.

The idea should meet with a warm response from *Lookout* readers and the general public, as well as all those who know the writings of the great master of the sea. There is probably no figure so popular in the literature of our day. Certainly no one approaches him in dealing with the mariner and life at sea.

The following Committee was appointed to have the matter in charge:

Edmund L. Baylies, Honorary Chairman	
Sir T. Ashley Sparks, Chairman	
Herbert L. Satterlee	Louis Gordon Hamersley
Charles W. Bowring	Junius S. Morgan, Jr.
Orme Wilson, Jr.	Bernon S. Prentice

A letter from the President of the Institute to Mrs. Conrad telling her of the Committee's decision elicited the following reply from her:

4 Ethelbert Road, Canterbury,
May 25th, 1925.

Dear Sir:

My sons join me in very deep appreciation of the dedicative as a memorial to my husband. He had always a very real liking and sympathy for all seamen and was very proud of being one himself.

Will you kindly convey our thanks to those to whom it is due and believe me to be,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) Jessie Conrad.

A Tribute to Seamen

A most unusual Memorial Day address was given on May 29th by Rear Admiral Bradley A. Fiske, retired, who paid tribute to the Americans lost at sea, was broadcast by Station WEAJ of New York. Admiral Fiske spoke of the 1,754 Americans who lost their lives at sea in the World War.

"These radio waves bearing tender meaning will pass over the grave of every American lost at sea since the beginning of our country," he declared. "When I consider this I am awed by the solemnity of the occasion, and feel it my duty to forget my living audience for a few brief moments and address those numberless ones who have perished on the sea.

"There are also those of you who gave your lives to the sea in the early years of this nation's history when every ocean voyage was a perilous adventure. Some of your number were the victims of buccaneers. Some died of starvation in

derelict ships. Many sank with vessels battered to their doom by storms. There are those of you who died valiantly in battle, upholding the honor of your country.

"The debt we owe you is incalculable. You first made the civilization of our country possible, and for 300 years have laid down your lives in your dangerous calling, in order that separate nations might be linked together in one coherent world. Among you are the heroes of fishing smack and barge, as well as those who answered 'Aye, aye, sir,' to the call of John Paul Jones, Decatur, Dewey and Sims.

"My countrymen, you are not forgotten! Your deeds are written in the history of our land and your names are held up to the younger generation as a continuing inspiration. We salute you!"

An Appreciative Traveler

There are probably no people who travel as much as the Americans. Winter and summer, spring and fall, there are always thousands crossing the sea. The steamship lines report this year the greatest amount of traveling in their history. But it is astonishing how few ever bestow a thought on the men below decks, or how few seem to realize how much their comfort and safety depend on the seaman.

That he is not altogether forgotten is shown by the following letter from a returning traveler:

Enclosed please find a cheque, a *thank offering* for a recent *safe return* from a sea voyage.

If one goes often to sea they appreciate how much of their comfort and safety depends on the man below decks, and be glad to help a little towards his comfort when he is on land. With all good wishes,

Very sincerely, H. V. A. M.

What the Produce Exchange Thinks of the Work of the Institute

The New York Produce Exchange, whose Board of Managers and members have always taken an active interest in the work of the Institute and who gave the present officer's room as a memorial to their president, have further shown their interest in the plans of the Institute for the new building by adopting the following resolutions on May 25th, 1925.

WHEREAS, a review of the achievements of the Seamen's Church Institute on behalf of the seamen of the Merchant Marine since the establishment of the Institute in 1913 reveals the capable execution of a large and important philanthropic undertaking, and further manifests a pressing need for additional space and facilities for the extension of the work so well performed;

WHEREAS, it is now proposed to erect an annex to the present Institute building which, when completed, will furnish nightly fifteen hundred lodgings; be it,

RESOLVED, that the Board of Managers of the New York Produce Exchange heartily endorses the highly laudable purposes of the Seamen's Church Institute and commends to the members of the Exchange engaged in shipping and transportation interests, and all others interested in the comfort, care and protection of seafaring men, this great philanthropy as one worthy of their full sympathy and support.

Mr. and Mrs. Knox Visit the Institute

Several months ago it was our pleasure to have had a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Stuart A. Knox of London and to introduce them to *Lookout* readers. They were then on their way around the world to visit the various stations of the Missions to Seamen in South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Honolulu, and Vancouver.

Returning on May 28th from a seven months' trip, they were the guests of Dr. and Mrs. Mansfield at their home in West New Brighton, Staten Island, during their stay in New York. The Institute was very fortunate in having several visits from them while here.

On the afternoon of June first Dr. and Mrs. Mansfield very kindly opened their house to the Seamen's Church Institute Association of Staten Island and to a few people from the Institute that they might meet Mr. and Mrs. Knox. Both of them gave a stimulating impression of their ideas of the work for seamen carried on in Australia, and in parts of the East. Mrs. Knox presented a few pictures from her mental portrait gallery of her trip. Mr. Knox paid a glowing tribute to the work of the Institute, to the leadership of Dr. Mansfield, and urged the necessity of cooperation in the great international work that still remained to be done in different parts of importance throughout the world. Especially in the Orient, he stated, where there was nowhere the British or American flag, should the two nations stand together in promoting the welfare of the seaman. Mrs. Julia Pearson Hunt, the Director of the Seamen's Church Institute Association of Staten Island, presided at the meeting.

The Modern Crusaders

The Institute was very fortunate in having several visits from the Church Army Crusaders of England who arrived in New York May 25th twenty-two strong and visited the Institute the first day of stay in America. The following Thursday they received the blessing of Bishop Manning who commissioned the two columns to work and witness in the Diocese of New York. On Friday they were the guests of the Institute at tea in the Apprentices' Room. Mrs. Baxter and Chaplain Montgomery were in charge. Later Friday evening they held a service and witness in the open before the Institute. On Sunday night, May 31st, Captain Hanson, the senior member of the visiting army, conducted the chapel service at the Institute at eight o'clock.

There is something very fine, very compelling and extremely human about these vigorous, militant lay members of the Church of England who are devoting their lives to the propagation of the doctrines of the Church and to the waking of a real spiritual feeling in an extremely materialistic world.

They lead the lives of hardy, out-of-door gypsies, sleeping in blankets rolled up on the floor wherever they happen to be. They are allowed an average of two dollars a week for their maintenance, and take their food as it is given them.

Before leaving England, the Archbishop of Canterbury said of the Crusade:

"I learn with thankfulness and hope of the invitation which has been given to the Church Army to send two columns of Crusader evangelists to America for work during the summer

"I know of the welcome which has been extended to Crusaders of the same type and experience here in England during the past five years, and of the blessing which has followed upon their efforts."

We shall be glad to see them back again on their return from New England and Canada, for their frank, honest directness made them popular with everyone at the Institute. And they seemed to be equally at home at 25 South Street.

A Real Human Document

He was a man, as the French say, "of a certain age." Time's gray fingers had touched his temples, chiselled a few strokes of pain in his face, but it had not removed his air of dogged self-sufficiency. An American, he had seen service with the Canadians before we entered the war. He then went back to sea.

He came to see Mrs. Roper. He asked for nothing, but her quick eyes saw that Fate had dealt him one of the staggering blows that temporarily numbs the feelings and makes all thought turn in empty circles.

His own letter tells what happened.

House Mother,
Dear Mrs. Roper,
Seamen's Church Institute,
25 South Street,
New York City.

San Francisco, Calif.,
May 25th, 1925.

My dear friend:

I arrived here on the 19th. I was glad to see old friends and tell them the kindness I received at your Institute when I landed there on the Dec. 16-23. You took a good look at me and says you must have clothes the first thing and give up that idea of going back to the West Coast. And get into a hospital at once the way you are.

You slip out and seen Mr. Green and told him my case in the meantime I consented to you I would go to the hospital. Mr. Green say I am so glad you are taking Mrs. Roper advice as you are no shape to go to the West Coast. So I landed in the hospital the next day with a order from you to get all heavy underwear and sox and a heavy overcoat. A perfect stranger to everybody I was at the first time I was in the Institute. On leaving you gave me Xmas Box with everything in it you could ask for going to a hospital such as needles, thread, postal cards and stamps on them, cigarettes, tobacco, oranges and apples, tablet and envelopes all in a little bag tied with string to close it that hung on my bed the 17 months I was in there the most useful thing a patient could wish for to put his razor and comb, brushes, etc. I landed here with the same bag as I could not part with it.

I forgot to tell you I layed over one day in Chicago for a lower birth as I could not climb up and down so high. And I was glad I did for I was very tired on the first of the journey. I have stayed home ever since I came, as I was tired all right.

I heard from the U. S. Veterans Bureau and they ask me if I want to go to the hospital. I say *no, no*. I have not heard from the Canadians Govt. what they have done. But when the time comes I think everything will be O. K.

It has rain for a week here. Lots of the people have hay cut laying out to the weather. I am certainly going to hunt Parson Hopkins up as soon as it clears up. And give him a idea how the Seamen's Church Institute is going ahead at 25 South Street, N. Y. C. I will close with my best wishes to all and yourself.

I am as ever,

Cordially yours,

T. F. T.

An Appreciation

It is always most agreeable to have friends of the Institute appreciate its work and efforts. The following letter to our President is especially appreciated at this time:

I have been an interested reader of the *Lookout* for a long time, and cannot too highly praise your series of artistic booklets and trust they will appeal to the public. In July I will send a check for \$100. I do not make pledges.

The wealth of the country should be brought to your aid in your great undertaking.

Very truly yours,

(Mrs.) J. D. W.

Some Members of the "Annex" Crew

"Lookout" subscribers and friends of the Institute all over the country have been very generous in their response to the building appeal. The first lap of the voyage is not yet over.

There is still room for a larger crew but among those who have "joined up" by subscribing \$1,000 and over are:

Anonymous	\$10,000.00
Allison V. Armour	1,000.00
Mrs. Richard T. Auchmuty.....	10,000.00
James Barber	2,500.00
James Barber Trust Fund	2,500.00
Barber Steamship Lines, Inc.	5,000.00
Edmund L. Baylies	10,000.00
Beekman Family Association	5,000.00
Berwindmoor Steamship Co.....	1,000.00
Berwindvale Steamship Co.	1,000.00
Edwin A. S. Brown.....	1,000.00
Mrs. B. H. Buckingham	2,000.00
Mrs. Mary D. Chafee.....	1,000.00
Mrs. D. Crawford Clark	1,000.00
F. Kingsbury Curtis	10,000.00
Cleveland H. Dodge	2,500.00
John I. Downey	1,000.00
Charles E. Dunlap	1,000.00
Harry Forsyth	1,000.00
Thomas H. Foulds	1,000.00
Miss Mary J. George	1,000.00
Louis Gordon Hamersley	1,000.00
Robert L. Harrison	1,000.00
Bayard C. Hoppin	1,000.00
Samuel S. Keyser	1,000.00
Mrs. Samuel Lord	2,000.00
Junius S. Morgan, Jr.	3,000.00
Mrs. Lewis R. Morris	1,000.00
Alice B. McCutcheon	1,000.00
John A. McKim	1,000.00

"The South Street Follies"

As an Empire Day celebration for the British Apprentices and Officers in the Port, the volunteers in the Apprentices' Rooms gave the South Street Follies.

To quote from the program: "A Cruise on a sea of nonsense, wherein are discovered many forms of land and sea life never before viewed, including Star Fishes and the famous School of Poor Fishes—Booking may only be had for Saturday evening, May 23rd, 1925, at one bell in the Ingersoll Watch!"

There were nine acts, all of which were so well received that the Committee has been requested to repeat the performance later in the fall.

The choruses were trained by Miss K. Jones, Miss D. Gifford, and Miss M. Burnham.

The entire performance was extremely clever—the production having been written entirely by the volunteers themselves, with a great many local allusions that met with a lively response from the audience. The imitations of Al Jolson, and Beatrice Lillie, the Indian Love-Call from "Rose Marie," the Highland Fling, the Spanish Dance, the Trained Elephant, with trainer and rider, and the sketch "An Impossible Happening" comprised the special acts. The chorus was excellent, the whole performance being conducted with a finish and a dash that savoured of the professional rather than the amateur.

To Make Memories Live

Have you someone whose memory you wish to perpetuate—for whom you would like a memorial of salient influence?

Wouldn't it be of double interest to you to find a medium for expressing such a desire through memorials that are vital instruments of service in the lives of thousands of seafarers who would benefit by them?

The following revised suggestions for memorial gifts may give you just the sort of thing you are looking for:

200 Chapel Chairs	Each	\$50
<i>(20 Taken)</i>		
8 Drinking Fountains on Dormitory Floors	Each	\$250
3 Drinking Fountains on 2nd, 3rd, and 4th floors	Each	\$500
<i>(2nd Floor Taken)</i>		
Name as Co-builder in Entrance Lobby	\$500 to \$1,000	
205 Seamen's Bedrooms	Each	\$500
<i>(13 Taken)</i>		
1 Drinking Fountain in Entrance Lobby		\$700
<i>(Taken)</i>		
211 Seamen's Bedrooms with running water	Each	\$1,000
<i>(26 Taken)</i>		
41 Staff and Licensed Officers' Bedrooms	Each	\$1,500
<i>(13 Taken)</i>		
Gift as Benefactor with Name on Large Bronze Tablet in Entrance Lobby		\$3,000
but less than \$10,000		
1 Dressing and Wash Room for Men Clerical Employees		\$3,000*
1 Twenty-eight-bed Open Dormitory		\$3,000
<i>(Taken)</i>		
1 Public Dining Room		\$5,000
1 Cloak and Wash Room for Volunteer Women Workers		\$5,000
6 Forty-two-bed Open Dormitories	Each	\$5,000
12 Bedrooms and Endowment for Free Use of Dependent Convalescents	Each	\$5,000
<i>(3 Taken)</i>		

8 Very Large Dormitory Wash Rooms	Each	\$5,000
1 Seventy-bed Open Dormitory		\$7,000
<i>(Taken)</i>		
Wing of 5 Officers' Bedrooms on 5th Floor ..		\$7,000
Wing of 5 Officers' Bedrooms on 12th Floor ..		\$7,000
4 Wings of 9 Seamen's Bedrooms	Each	\$7,000
Main Public Stairway 2nd Floor to 4th Mezzanine		\$10,000**
1 Very Large Rest Room and Wash Room for Women Clerical Employees		\$10,000
<i>(Taken)</i>		
Gift as Founder and Name on large Bronze Tablet in Entrance Lobby		\$10,000
or more		
Superintendent's and Administration Offices ..		\$15,000
6 Corridors of Seamen's Bedrooms (19 in all)	Each	\$15,000
1 Block of 15 Officers' Bedrooms on 12th Floor ..		\$20,000
Enlarged Apprentices' Room, including Cloak Room and Name as Founder		\$25,000
6 Wings of Seamen's Bedrooms (19 with running water, 14 ordinary rooms)	Each	\$25,000
Wing of 18 officers' Bedrooms and Wash Room on 12th Floor		\$30,000
1 Reading and Lounge Room (10,000 sq. ft.) ..		\$50,000
Entrance Doorway and Lobby		\$50,000
<i>(Taken)</i>		
Dispensary and Hospital Rooms		\$50,000
"Spotless Town"—the Laundry Floor and Entire Equipment to Take Care of the Institute and Its Men		\$50,000

* All gifts of \$3,000 and over entitle the donor to recognition as a benefactor on the benefactors' bronze tablet in the main entrance lobby.

** Donations of \$10,000 or more entitle the donor to recognition as founder.

5 have become Founders.
11 have become Benefactors.

New York State and Federal Income Tax

Contributions for gifts to the Seamen's Church Institute of New York are deductible by the donor when computing net income subject to New York State and Federal Income Tax

Payments in Installments

All memorial subscriptions or general contributions may be made payable in four equal installments over a period of one and one-half years. The last payment is to be made not later than January 1, 1927.

This convenient arrangement for payments often makes it possible to give a larger memorial or contribution than if the entire sum is payable at once.

These memorials, including furniture or equipment, provide for the establishment of units of the new building, which will be marked by simple bronze tablets, inscribed according to the donors' wishes.

A special fund has been arranged to take care of all expenses in connection with the campaign.

All subscriptions go directly into the building fund.

Checks should be made payable to

FRANK T. WARBURTON, *Treasurer*

25 South Street, New York

For Seamen in Philadelphia

The first unit of the new Seamen's Church Institute building of Philadelphia was formally opened June first and will be ready for occupancy on the 15th of June.

The Rev. W. T. Weston, General Secretary of the Seamen's Church Institute of America, spoke at the formal opening. A congratulatory mes-

sage was sent the President of the Institute by Mr. G. A. Green, Director of the Social Service Department of the Seamen's Church Institute of New York, in behalf of the Institute, the members of the Seamen's Church Institute Association of Staten Island, and Mr. and Mrs. Stuart A. Knox of London, the guests of Dr. and Mrs. Mansfield.

A Real Service

The shuttle of life sometimes weaves slowly and often those who watch the weaving do not have the opportunity of seeing the completed pattern. But this past month has seen the completion of one of those unexpected designs of human life in which the Social Service Department is peculiarly rich.

It began two years ago. Times were bad and to tide himself over, the seaman took a shore job in a quarry. An accident killed him instantly, but an old shipmate brought word to the Institute that he had a few effects in the dunnage room. They were looked over with the view of finding out whether he had a family and to whom they should go. The only thing that gave a clue was a fragment of a letter written by his wife seven years before from some remote village in Scotland, alone except for two small children.

The House Mother read between the lines the story of the struggle to maintain and educate them. She then wrote to the woman to find out

whether she was the wife of the seaman. She was. The Social Service Department then set about collecting his workmen's compensation for her. Endless legal forms, consulary papers, certificates, letters, identifications, affidavits there were, but the Department saw it through.

With a compensation check for \$3,000 the weight of poverty, and the fear of being unable to educate her children is lessened, relief of freedom from worry accomplished and the Department has the surety once more of adding a few bright threads into the tangled life web of a brave Scottish woman.

The House Mother Perplexed

There are times when Mrs. Roper's ingenuity is taxed to solve some problem presented to her by a member of her seafaring family. She finds it comparatively easy to unite families from Hamerfest to Cape Town, from San Francisco to Bombay. She has a real flair for finding men and boys who have gone to sea and who have been lost to their families, but when a letter came to her last month from a woman in the Middle West asking her to locate three sea captains, one of whom was reported lost at sea about 1758, another in 1797, and still another in 1799, she admitted that she was momentarily "stumped." It was characteristic of her to find a remedy to the problem telling her inquirer of a geneological society whose business is to help find obscure branches of family trees.

PLEDGE

In consideration of the Seamen's Church Institute of New York proceeding with the work of erecting the proposed addition to its present building, to cost approximately \$2,000,000, the undersigned agrees to pay to said Corporation the sum of.....

.....Dollars as stated below.

Payments may be made in four equal instalments, the first payment to be made upon signing this pledge, and the others on the dates indicated below, the *final* payment not later than January 1, 1927.

Payments to be made on
(Indicate dates)

..... Signed.....
..... Address.....
.....

FRANK T. WARBURTON, *Treasurer*,
25 South Street, New York City.

CONTRIBUTION

I desire to assist in the erection of the proposed addition to the present Seamen's Church Institute building, which is to cost approximately \$2,000,000, and herewith enclose my check for \$..... to be applied to the New Building Fund.

Signed.....
Address.....

FRANK T. WARBURTON, *Treasurer*,
25 South Street, New York City.

MEMORIALS

I should like to be furnished with a list of unassigned *Memorial Gifts* that may be made for the proposed addition to the present *Seamen's Church Institute Building*.

Name.....

Building Committee, Address.....
SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK,
25 South Street, New York City.

New York State and Federal Income Tax

Contributions for gifts to the Seamen's Church Institute of New York are deductible by the donor when computing net income subject to New York State and Federal Income Tax.

Seamen's Church Institute of New York

Incorporated 1844

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The LOOKOUT

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

by the

SEAMEN'S CHURCH
INSTITUTE of NEW YORK

at

25 SOUTH ST., NEW YORK, N. Y.

Telephone Bowling Green 3620

Subscription Rates

One Dollar Annually, Postpaid
Single Copies, Ten Cents

Address all communications to

ARCHIBALD R. MANSFIELD, D.D.

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or

Editor, The Lookout