The Water Witch

The years 1861 to 1865 are unique in naval history. Port Columbus relates the history of both the US and Confederate Navies, and the pride of Port Columbus is the USS Water Witch, a replica of a gunboat that was employed by both navies during the course of the war. This full-scale reproduction was painstakingly reconstructed using the original drawings and photographs. Additional museum exhibits feature one of the bells from the original Water Witch, as well as one of her flags and a Bible that belonged to the USN crew. Walking the deck of the USS Water Witch is to walk into America’s past.

Port Columbus National Civil War Naval Museum

The American Civil War is arguably the most studied period of American History. The names Lee, Grant, Lincoln, and battles such as Gettysburg are known to most Americans. The significance of Civil War Navies however, is little known outside the famous first battle of ironclads between the Monitor and the Virginia-Merrimac. The National Civil War Naval Museum, located in Columbus GA, tells that little known - but crucial - part of the story. It is the only museum in the United States dedicated to telling the stories of Sailors, Soldiers and Civilians, both Free and Enslaved, who served in or were affected by the Navies of the American Civil War.

Cover art, Point Blank, by Tom Freeman. Prints available at museum.
HISTORIC SHIPS
SAIL THROUGH TIME

From the Observation Deck’s vantage point take in the majestic remains of the Southern ironclad ram Jackson. Originally over four million pounds of heart pine and solid oak encased in iron, her hull is preserved beneath a “ghost structure” frame illustrating her original dimensions—and her 19th century version of modern composite armor.

In the Center Gallery view the wreckage of the Chattahoochee, a hard luck Confederate gunboat which suffered a catastrophic boiler explosion that claimed 19 men—just three months after being launched and before ever seeing combat. She was scuttled by her own crew at war’s end.

In the Main Gallery the recreated turret of the revolutionary USS Monitor awaits, bearing the marks of battle from her fight with the Virginia-Merrimac.

Ramble below deck on the famed USS Hartford, moving through the Berth Deck, Ward Room and Captain’s Cabin of Admiral David Farragut’s recreated flagship. Then it’s off to the Roanoke River where the ironclad CSS Albemarle awaits its fate from USN Lt. Cushing’s torpedo boat attack.

TOURS, LIVING HISTORY
PROGRAMS, MUSEUM THEATRE
AND RENTALS

The National Civil War Naval Museum offers a wide variety of events and tours throughout the year for schools, groups and the general public. Museum space can also be rented for meetings, box lunches, receptions and dinners.

RARE AND
SIGNIFICANT ARTIFACTS

Poignant and unique items are on display throughout the Museum’s galleries. Artifacts from the Museum’s collection available for public viewing include Sailor uniforms, the frock of a Ship’s Boy, the coat and sword worn by Lt. Catesby Jones at the Battle of Hampton Roads, the blood stained suit of the USS Ottawa’s Dr. John Luck and an actual ship’s cutter from the USS Hartford.

PLAN YOUR VISIT TODAY

The Exhibits and Programs that you’ll encounter at the National Civil War Naval Museum will engage you with little known and surprising stories of one of the most pivotal events in United States History. Plan your visit today for a destination you won’t soon forget.

For more information call 706.327.9798
or visit us online at portcolumbus.org