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FRIDAY **D**  
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# National Maritime Day docks at Ships of the Sea Museum

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It will be full speed ahead Saturday at the Ships of the Sea Museum as National Maritime Day celebrations will focus on Savannah's nautical history and the unveiling of a marker to the William Scarbrough House.

Rob Richards of the National Archives at Atlanta will speak on "Sailors, Ships and the Sea: True Stories from the Maritime Records of the National Archives at Atlanta," said Tony Pizzo, executive director of the museum.

The two-hour program, based on National Archives' records, will chronicle the nautical exploits of several ships and Savannahians, including Lachlan McIntosh, William Scarbrough and James Wayne, Pizzo said.

It will be in the garden of the museum, a storied mansion with deep ties to Savannah history, and to National Maritime Day.

Scarbrough, the house's first



Savannah Morning News file photo

**Sue and Bob Wiener of Bluffton look at a model at the Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum during Super Museum Sunday last year.**

## IF YOU GO

**What:** National Maritime Day at Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum

**When:** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday

**Where:** Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum, 41 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

**Details:** From 10 a.m.-noon, Rob Richards of the National Archives at Atlanta will speak in the museum's garden At 12:15 p.m. the historical marker will be dedicated. A reception will follow.

**Admission:** On Saturday, admission to the museum, and all the Maritime Day events, will be free.

**Information:** Call 912-232-1511 or go to [www.shipsofthesea.org](http://www.shipsofthesea.org).

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# Ships

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owner, was a principal investor in the SS Savannah, the first steamship to cross the Atlantic Ocean.

That famous voyage began May 22, 1819, and a 1933 presidential proclamation read, in part, that “May 22 of each year shall hereafter be designated and known as National Maritime Day.”

That landmark, and other chapters in the house’s history, will be celebrated on the marker, which will be installed under the auspices of the Georgia Historical Society.

Pizzo said he was surprised in 2002, when he started working at Ships of the Sea, to find out there wasn’t already a historical marker in place.

“I thought there must be one around here somewhere,” he said. “I was so sure that I looked for it in the attic — twice.”

Now in place on the Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard side of the house, the marker will be under wraps until Saturday’s ceremony.

## **HISTORICAL MARKER TEXT**

William Scarbrough House:  
Designed by noted English architect William Jay, this house was built for William Scarbrough, president of the Savannah Steamship Company. Completed in 1819, it is an excellent example of the neoclassical style. Scarbrough hosted President James Monroe here in May 1819 during the president’s visit to witness the launching of the S.S. Savannah on the world’s first trans-Atlantic steamship voyage. For 84 years (1878-1962), the house served as the West Broad Street School for African-American children and later as the headquarters for the Historic Savannah Foundation from 1976-1991. In 1996 the house was acquired by the Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum.

Erected by the Georgia Historical Society and the Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum