



Leon Poindexter, Master Shipwright



Leon Poindexter is a master shipwright of several historic vessels and replicas and consultant to numerous maritime museums. He builds, repairs and restores large traditionally built historic wooden sailing vessels and their rigs. Many of his vessels are on the National Register of Historic Places. Leon learned his trade from some of the last of the “old timers” who worked in the famed shipyards of Essex and Cape Ann, Massachusetts. He has more than 30 years experience in this trade. Leon has worked on many important vessels, including the U.S.S. *CONSTITUTION* and the U.S.S. *MASSACHUSETTS*. He was the master shipwright for and created the H.M.S. *Surprise*, used in the Academy Award-winning movie “Master and Commander” starring Russell Crowe.

Leon is the architect and contractor for The Boston Tea Party ships at the Gloucester Marine Railway, the nation’s oldest shipyard in Gloucester, Mass, where he has restored and retrofitted two vessels, the full rigged ships *Eleanor* and the *Beaver*, for The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum.

The *Beaver* replica is more than 100 years old and was originally built in Denmark as a Baltic fishing/cargo schooner. Leon has re-designed the *Beaver’s* topsides and deck to better represent the original *Beaver*, a whale ship from Nantucket. This vessel underwent re-timbering and re-planking of the topsides and bow, replacement of the stern, deck, bulwarks, lower masts, bowsprit and rigging.

The *Eleanor* is a re-creation of a second Boston Tea Party ship and is 90 feet on deck. Work included new sides, deck, stern and quarter galleries, bow and all rigging. Leon has completed drawings for a third Boston Tea Party ship, the *Dartmouth*, to be newly built from the keel up and plans for its construction are forthcoming.

ABOUT BOSTON TEA PARTY SHIPS & MUSEUM:

The Boston Tea Party, “the single most important event leading up to the American Revolution,” occurred the night of Dec. 16, 1773. Opened in June 2012, The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, owned and operated by Historic Tours of America, is dedicated to accurately reliving and representing a key time in history (1773-1775). Through actors, tea throwing reenactments, high-tech interactive exhibits, authentic replica ships: the *Beaver* and the *Eleanor*, and an award-winning multisensory film, *Let it Begin Here*. The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum is open 7 days/week from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Summer/Spring) and from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Fall/Winter). Tours run every 30 minutes in fall/winter and every 15 minutes in spring/summer and last 1 hr. Closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum was voted ‘Best Historical Experience’ in *Yankee* ‘2017 Best of New England’, #1 ‘Best Patriotic Attraction’ in *USA Today’s* 10Best Readers’ Choice Awards 2016, ‘Best New Museum’ by *Yankee* in 2012 and ‘Best of the New 2012’ by *Boston Globe Magazine*. To learn more visit www.bostonteatpartyship.com or call 1-855-(TEA)-1773. The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum is located at on the Congress Street Bridge at 306 Congress St., Boston, MA.

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