

The Mantle Piece and Painting of the ship *Frank Jones*

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The Mantle Piece

David Mowers related the story that, by 1983, the heatlators in the fireplace had become rusted to the point where they were useless and some of the bricks were loose. The Board turned to a member, John Tuttle, who was a mason. John replaced the face of the fireplace and rebuilt it to its present appearance and condition.

David Mowers noticed during this time that the mantle was in poor condition. He found a pile of heavy lumber at the Rand Lumber Company in Rye left over from the building of the schooner *Appledore* and paid \$10 for the pile. Two boards were suitable for his purpose, and he ripped, planed, and sanded them. One became the back piece of the mantle. He worked with a sign carver in Dover to design the mantle as it is today. David chose dolphins to represent the Shipyard, as a number of members had been involved in some way with the Shipyard, and dolphins are the symbol of the submarine force.

Painting of the ship *Frank Jones*, hanging over the fireplace

The Portsmouth Yacht Club is very fortunate to have the large oil painting over the fireplace. It was painted by William Pierce Stubbs.

William Stubbs was born in Rockport, Maine in 1842 and died in 1909. He was considered an American professional ship portraitist who showed fairly straightforward broadside views of sailing ships.

Our painting of the ship *Frank Jones* was done in 1885 and is signed. The Peabody Museum of Salem, Massachusetts has eight signed portraits by William Stubbs.

