



## **SKIPJACK HERITAGE, INC.**

**P.O. Box 158  
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### **SKIPJACK HERITAGE, INC. - PURPOSE & GOALS**

In the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Chesapeake Bay was the worlds largest single producer of oysters. But, with a continued decline of the oyster population, the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century brought the beginning of a series of conservation laws that were passed in Maryland limiting the dredging of oysters to mostly sail powered vessels.....thus was born the “Skipjack”.

Originating on Maryland’s Eastern Shore in the late 1800's, they were better known as a “two-sail bateau” with a V-hull. The ship later evolved into what is now a larger version, know as the “Skipjack”. Ranging in length from 25 ft. to 50 ft., the shallow draft with centerboard, single mast, two-sail sloop rigged vessel, mostly built by house carpenters and local watermen themselves, once roamed the Chesapeake in the hundreds, fishing for the often elusive bivalve....the oyster. Now, some 100 plus years later, only a handful presently fish the bay, numbering just in the teens.

Skipjack Heritage, inc., was formed in 2007 as a non-profit organization that has an IRS 501(c)3 tax deductible designation. Some objectives of the organization is to provide support and promote the education and appreciation of the Skipjacks, their owners, captains, crew and families, the seafood industry and, in general, the watermen’s way of life in order to assist and preserve the social and cultural heritage for current and future generations. Skipjack Heritage, Inc., also provides support to local watermen, civic organizations and events that have similar goals. The organization is currently expanding it’s educational program development with the State’s Universities and is in the beginning stages of planning and development for a Skipjack Museum to be built in the Deal Island area.

These are lofty goals for such a new and small organization with limited resources. To accomplish this, Skipjack Heritage, Inc., is also expanding by providing general membership into the organization for individuals and business.