



*PORTS*



## **Lake Ontario Shippers & Travellers**

historic Ontario fleets, titles held in trust by PORTS O.N.T.A.R.I.O. Observatory USA

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### **HAMILTON and SCOURGE**

One of the most spectacular historical finds of Lake Ontario's past is the discovery of these two sunken **War of 1812** US Navy armed schooners.



Figurehead of the **HAMILTON**, originally an American merchant schooner named **DIANA**. It was purchased by the US Navy and refitted for combat.



Figurehead of the **SCOURGE**, originally a Canadian schooner named **LORD NELSON**. Likeness is that of British **Admiral Horatio Nelson**. The vessel was captured and renamed by the Americans before the war broke out.

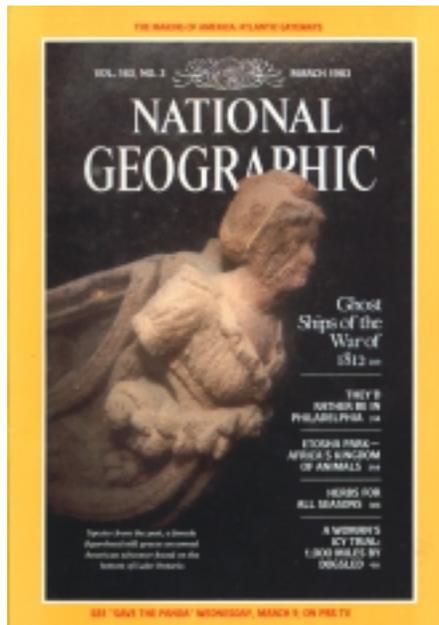
Both ships were lost during the **War of 1812** maneuvers in Canadian waters near **Niagara River**. They went to the bottom in a fierce storm on **August 8, 1813**.

Their loss is told in the account of **Ned Myers**, a crew member of the **Scourge**.

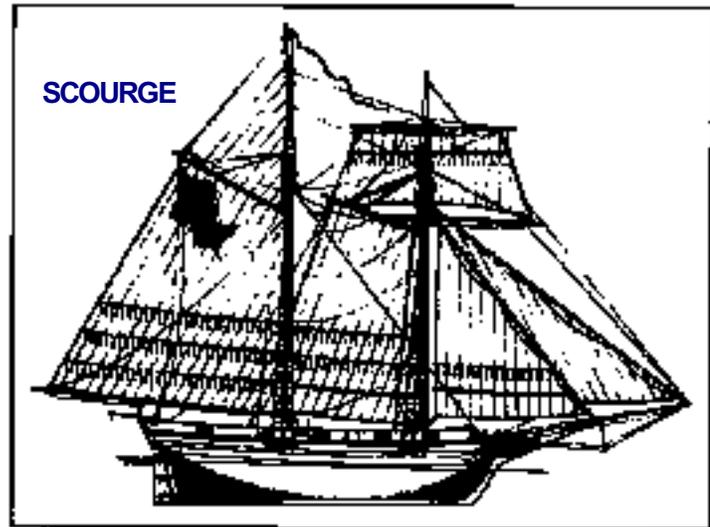
After 170 years, these nearly intact vessels were finally found, with these underwater photographs taken for historical record. Both vessels remain entombed in deep waters at the bottom of Lake Ontario in an undisclosed location.

The City of Hamilton is the steward of the Hamilton Scourge Historic Site with title having been transferred to the City from the U.S. Navy via the Royal Ontario Museum in 1980.

Photographs courtesy of City of Hamilton Ontario Canada.



**HAMILTON**



**Scourge (drawing by Ian Morgan, © Hamilton-Scourge Foundation)**

The **Reference Library of Great Lake Ontario** directs readers to two informative publications for further information and stories of Hamilton, Scourge, Ned Myers, and how the ships were discovered.

The first is **National Geographic** magazine (Vol. 163, No. 3, March 1983.)

There you will find amazing underwater photographs, ship histories, and the method of their underwater discovery; written by Daniel A Nelson; photographs by Emory Kristof; paintings by Richard Schlect.  
( Photographs presented here are from the magazine.)

The second is the true story of Ned Myers.

**Ned Myers: or, A Life Before the Mast,**  
edited by **James Fenimore Cooper,**  
with an introduction and notes by William S Dudley.  
( Annapolis MD : Naval Institute Press, 1989.)  
Originally published by Lea and Blanchard, Philadelphia, 1843.  
(Scourge illustration presented here is from the book.)

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