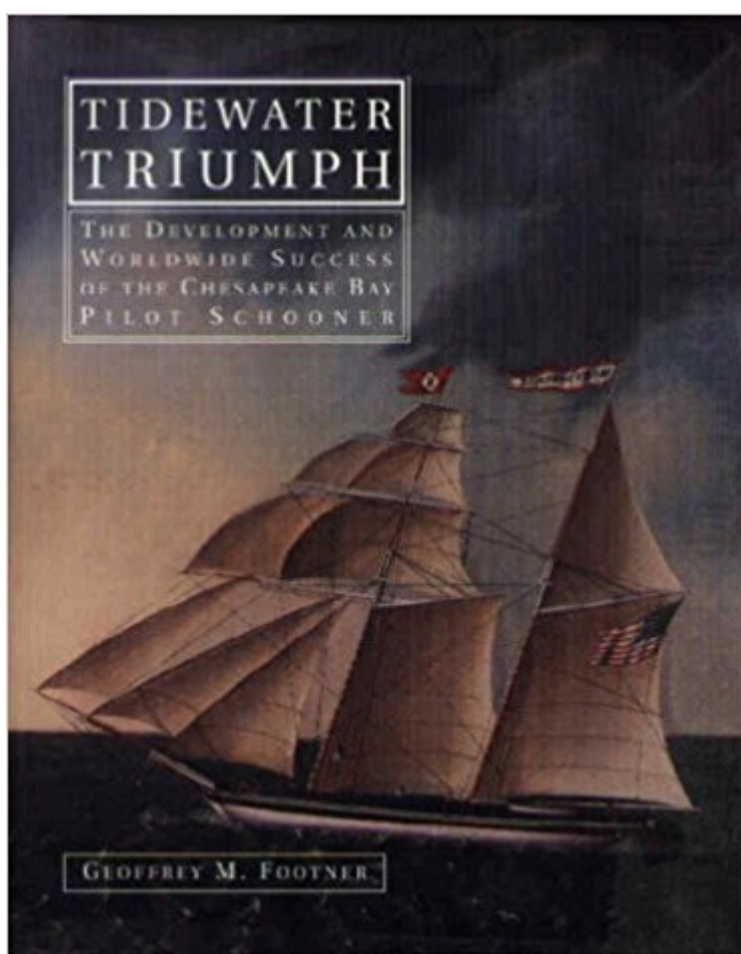


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Tidewater Triumph: The Development And Worldwide Success Of The Chesapeake Bay Pilot Schooner



Synopsis

The fast, agile pilot schooners of Chesapeake Bay - employed not only for piloting but for cargo-carrying - began to build their legend in the eighteenth century, becoming blockade runners during the American Revolution, privateering vessels during the War of 1812, armed dispatch and policing vessels for European navies, and a favored type for the activities of pirates, smugglers and slavers. Variations on the final "clipper" model of the Baltimore schooner continued the vessel's reputation through the nineteenth century as great yachts and humble "pungy" schooners that carried produce and building materials well into the twentieth century. In *Tidewater Triumph* Geoffrey Footner documents the family tree of this distinctive American vessel in both text and illustration, including hull lines from sources around the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

One of the best sources for the understanding the history of Chesapeake Bay shipbuilding traditions in Maryland.

Great history of unusual boat type.

Tidewater Triumph is an important addition to the books on the Baltimore clippers -- a name which Footner rejects. Footner's thesis is that the Baltimore clipper did not arise from the traditional Anglo-American vessels of the colonial period, but were instead enlarged versions of the Virginia pilot boat; he prefers to call them 'pilot schooners.' He analyzes numerous vessels and provides

copies of their plans, contemporary illustrations, and other data, including some foreign sources not previously pulled together in a single place. This volume is densely packed with information and citations which make a strong case; academicians and serious naval history buffs will enjoy it but casual readers will probably be bewildered. However, I feel compelled to update my review; after more research and reading I would only give the work 4 stars. I have been able to identify some gaps and errors in his work that I missed before so I no longer find his argument as persuasive. Nonetheless, although Footner may not prove his theory of the origin of the Baltimore clipper, nobody else can prove their theories either, and it remains a good presentation of the case for a purely American origin for our beloved Chesapeake schooners.

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