

HISTORY

Robert Gould Shaw was born in Gouldsboro, Maine in 1776. He went to Boston in his teens as an indentured servant to his uncle William Shaw. When his indenture expired, he entered into the shipping business on his own account, opening his first trading company in Boston in 1799.

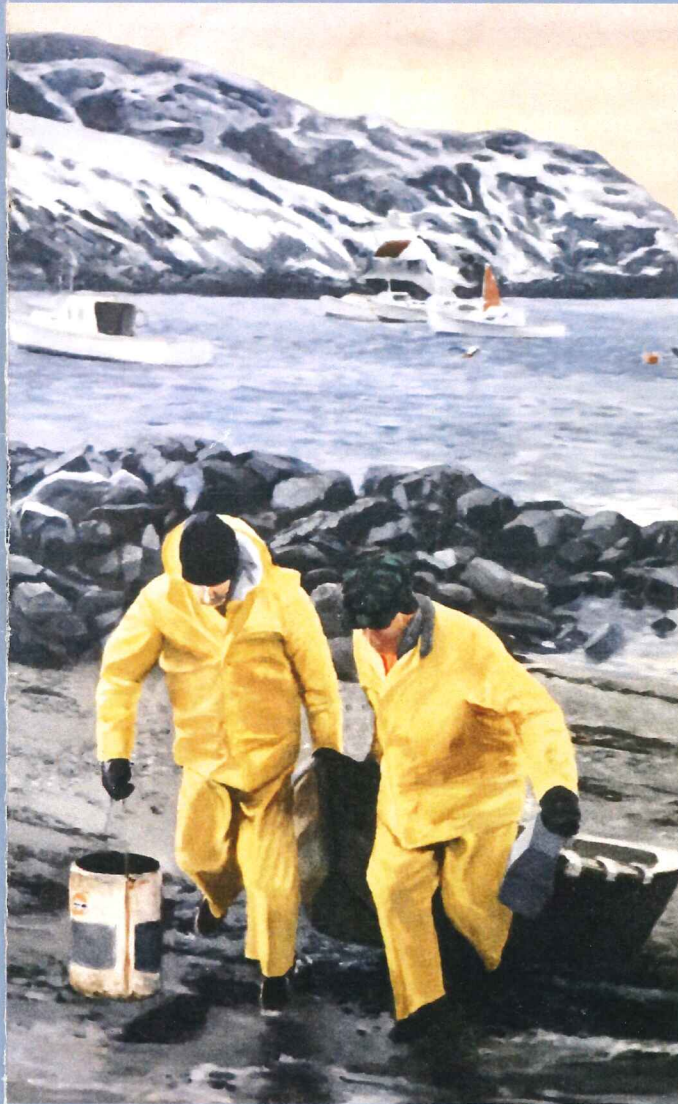
His uncle, Samuel Shaw, had been involved in the China Trade, and his father-in-law, Samuel Parkman, had been very active in trade with the East Indies. As a result, young Shaw was well-connected and versed in the business he chose as his life's work. He eventually owned many ships trading in ports throughout the world.

Trading was a hazardous business in the early 19th century. The outgoing ships were frequently heavily laden. Inevitably their masters were in a hurry to reach their destinations. While cargoes were generally not perishable, owners were always anxious to reach markets first with their goods. The human cost was appalling on long voyages, as these vessels were sailed hard. Furthermore, both pirates and privateers roamed the seas seeking rich prizes which these merchantmen represented. These many forces resulted in much loss of life. Shaw, who personally supervised the loading of his own ships, was also intimately involved with his seamen. He engaged them himself, using no agents, and at the end of a voyage he personally discharged them. Hence, he knew them personally and for long periods of time. When there was a disaster, he always took it as a personal responsibility.

When he died in 1853, he left a bequest for the purpose of supporting the widows and children of fishermen. Over the years, the Shaw Fund for Mariners' Children has continued to serve the intent of Mr. Shaw's bequest and has provided much useful aid to fishermen and their families throughout Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

— S. Parkman Shaw




SHAW FUND FOR MARINERS' CHILDREN



www.shawfund.org

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Shaw Fund for Mariners' Children is to aid residents of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts who are:

-  Incapacitated Mariners and their Spouses
-  Widows and Widowers of Mariners
-  Dependent Children of Mariners

SERVICES

The Fund provides short-term financial assistance. Information about other resources is made available to applicants. Each request is considered individually. Distribution of funds is at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please call the telephone number nearest you:

Toll Free	(833) 742-9363
Newburyport, MA	(978) 465-7999
Portsmouth, NH	(603) 433-1853
Pemaquid, ME	(207) 677-2070



SHAW FUND FOR MARINERS' CHILDREN

Post Office Box 194
Newburyport, MA 01950

ABOUT THE SHAW FUND

The Shaw Fund for Mariners' Children is a private foundation dedicated to supporting New England fishermen and others who work at sea. Established in 1853, The Shaw Fund has been providing financial assistance and resource and referral services to mariner families residing in Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire for over 150 years.

The Shaw Fund provides short-term financial assistance at times of illness or injury. The Fund further assists retired mariners, and widows and widowers of mariners, facing financial difficulties. Financial assistance is also made available to dependent children of mariners. Shaw Fund social workers provide information about, and referrals to government and community agencies for additional support.

The Fund accepts referrals from community service providers and self-referrals. Proof of a substantial work history in the industry, as well as financial need, is required to be considered for assistance. The Fund's social workers assist applicants with establishing required documentation.

Typical grants include: payments for housing costs and utilities; assistance with medical transportation costs and purchase of durable medical equipment; purchase of books and school supplies and payment of student fees. This is just a partial list and all requests are considered individually.

The goal of the Shaw Fund is to aid mariners and their families during times of financial challenge, and to work toward establishing their long-term financial stability.

Cover painting: "Harry and Vernon," by Joan S. Harlow