

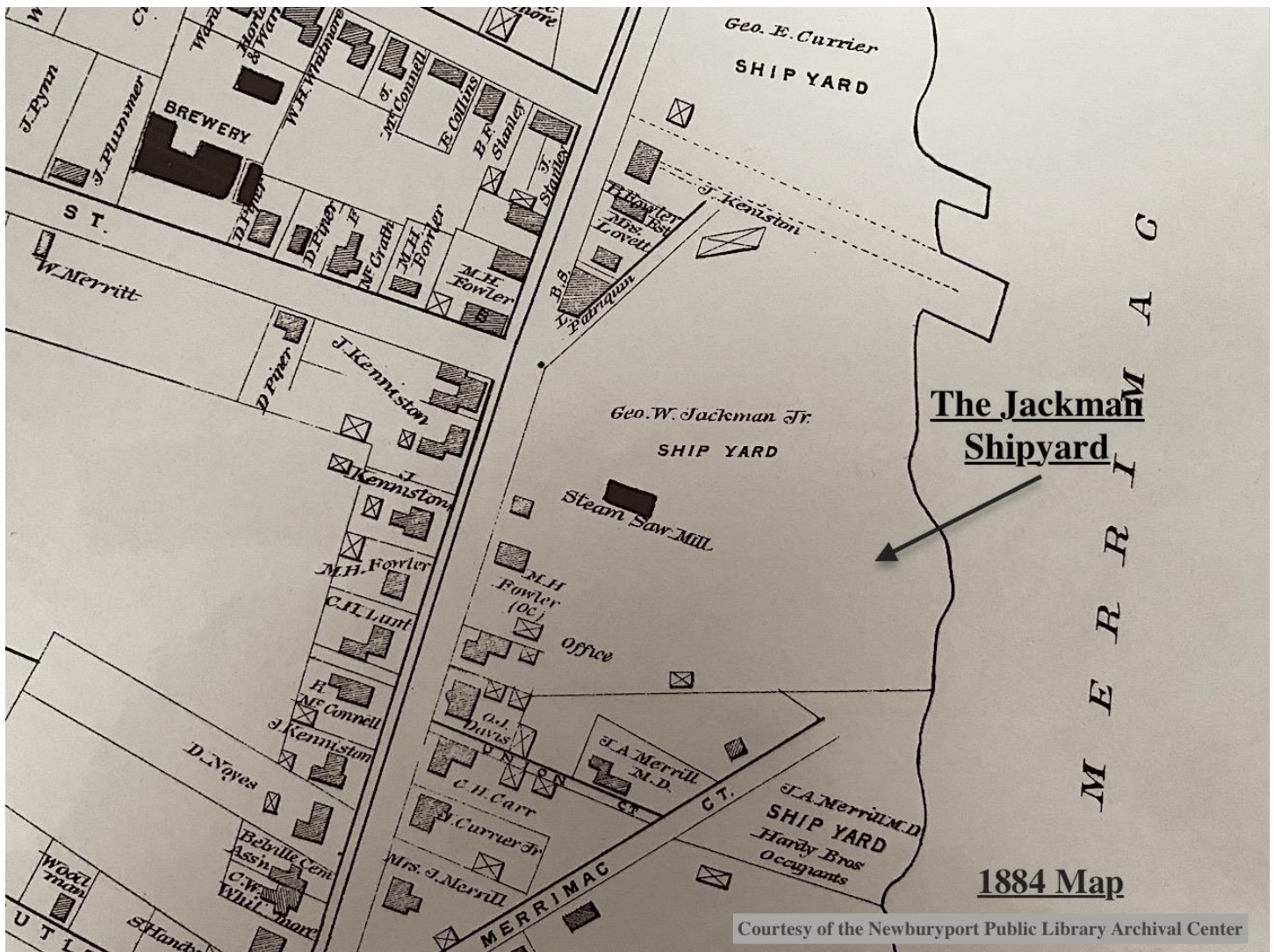
The Shipyard Closes

George Jackman's obituary stated that, "He was one of the foremost shipbuilders of the city and was one of the sturdy men whose brain and handiwork made Newburyport famous in every part of the world."

The shipyard closed in 1874. The Jackman family built a greater variety of vessels than any other shipyard, from a 100-ton schooner, government war vessels, clipper ships, barks, and brigs, to the largest steamships ever built in the city.*



1884 Map, courtesy of the Newburyport Public Library Archival Center



1884 Map, courtesy of the Newburyport Public Library Archival Center

George Jackman



George Jackman (1814–1895) became mayor of Newburyport in 1861, when he filled the vacancy created when the serving mayor died in office. He served six years as mayor, and held that office throughout most of the Civil War. At other times he was an alderman, councilman, postmaster, and customs collector, and he was elected to the state legislature as well. The Jackman School was named after him.

This image was probably made at his second term of Mayor from 1864–1865.

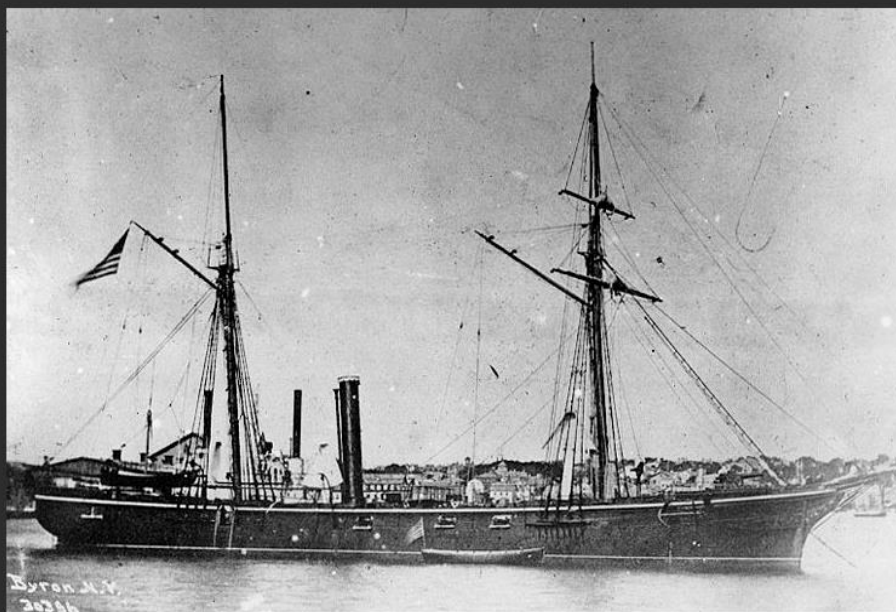
He lived at 51 Woodland Street. There is a tunnel that runs

from under the house that reaches his shipyard. A clever way to arrive without the trouble of muddy streets and inclement weather.



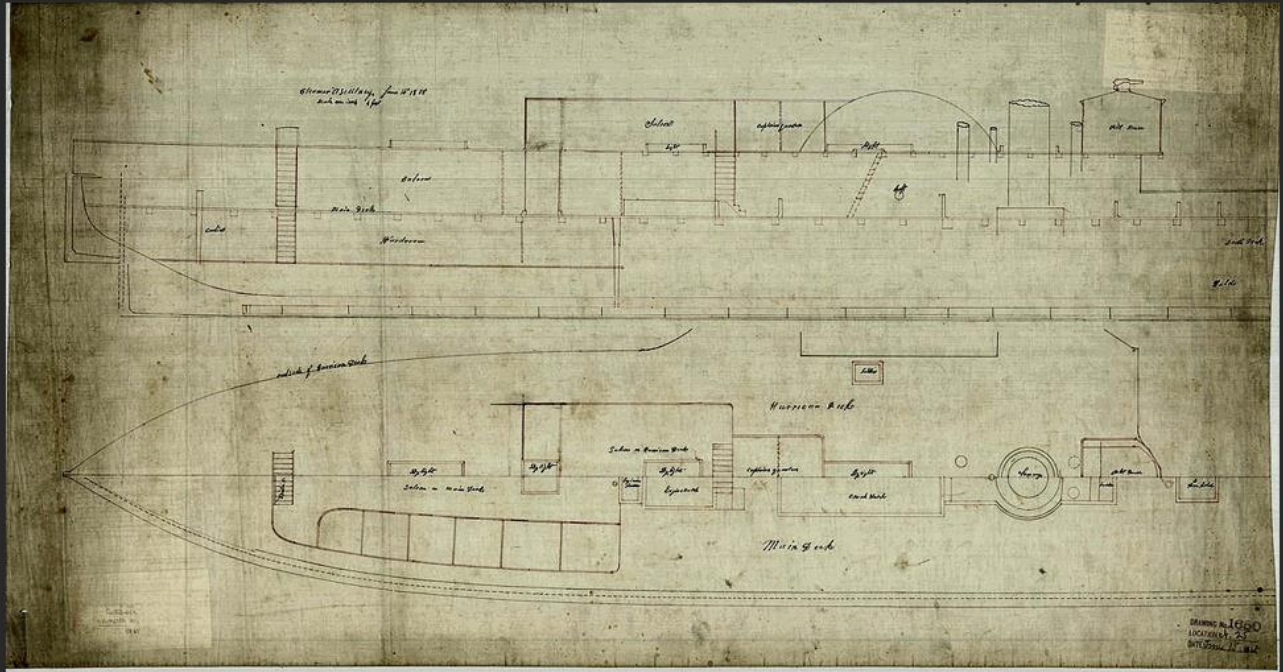
In 1861 Mr. Jackman secured a government contract to build the U. S. steamer gunboat the Marblehead which was 529 tons. Construction began in April of 1861 and was completed six months later. The Marblehead patrolled the East coast in search of Confederate vessels. Another steamer gunboat, the Ascutney which was 1,040 tons, was completed in 1863. The Ascutney was used by the Union Navy to assist in the blockade of Confederate waterways during the Civil War.

George Jackman built the two largest wooden steamships in Massachusetts, the Ontario in 1866, and the Erie in 1867, each over 200 feet long and weighing 3,000 tons for a company of Boston merchants. The *Newburyport Herald* reported, "There are as many men working on these two steamers as there are employed in all other yards put together." The day of the launching the Ontario the railroads ran special trains that carried hundreds of passengers and shipbuilders from Boston and other ports for the gala occasion. All the shops in town closed in honor of the launching.*



U. S. steamer gunboat the Marblehead





US Navy drawing for USS Ascutey dated 16 June 1865
showing Ascutey's inboard profile and hurricane and main decks.
US National Archives

References:

51 Woodland Street, Newburyport, MA, Newburyport Historical District, House Survey, 1984.

51 Woodland Street, Vision Appraisal, City of Newburyport

Clipper Heritage Trail, www.clipperheritagetrail.com

Custom House Maritime Museum

www.customhousemaritimemuseum.org

Historical Society of Old Newbury and Cushing Museum

www.newburyhist.org

Newburyport Public Library Archival Center

www.newburyportpl.org

Oak Hill Cemetery, Newburyport, Massachusetts

www.oakhillcemeterynewburyport.com

The Mayors of Newburyport: 1851 to the Present (1996), Compiled and edited by Jerie Larsen & Todd C. Woodworth, 1996