

## OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2014

10.01.2014-Intercourse, PA- Amish country

Intercourse, PA, home to the Amish ended up being shorter than I expected.



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Thought we would be going back to the town, but after we ate at the Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant we took care of some loose ends then headed on home. But like all seniors we made it a point to eat this time. We don't make a habit of dining out generally, but Plain and Fancy had to be an exception. The food was just as good as I'd remembered it from over forty years ago; glad we're getting out a little more. Our waitress was excellent and even tried to take our picture, till I checked back only to find she'd forgotten to push the camera button all the way; *what the heck!*



When we arrived at the Plain & Fancy Restaurant we were about the only ones there. By the time we had finished eating two bus loads of Canadian tourists had joined us in the restaurant. In the picture below we were at the Intercourse Pretzel Factory, learning all about pretzels; even how to create a pretzel. It really wasn't that hard, even I was able to accomplish this feat.



**Show off! The factory had an awesome array of unusual goods for sale. Most unusual were copies of really old newspapers covering new discoveries for that time, as well as, the latest prices on new cars for as much as \$999.00. Needless to say they also sold pretzels in all shapes and sizes. Carla especially liked the herb flavored pretzels.**



**The farms and the land they farm are impeccable.**



**It's that time of the year when corn is being harvested. Carla had a chance to speak to an Amish farmer and he told her that alfalfa is planted after the corn is harvested. This both protects the top soil from dying out and blowing away and also replenishes the nutrients in the soil for replanting the following season. In the picture above are fields, brown in color. These areas are either corn stalks fields waiting to be harvested or what the ground looks like after harvesting and before the alfalfa begins to grow. The green areas are alfalfa growing. *All having been said and done, except for the Plain and Fancy restaurant and their food, the trip was not all that I'd expected. We should have spent a little more time in the town of Intercourse. Oh well! Maybe next time.***

**10.09.2014-Jamestown, VA**

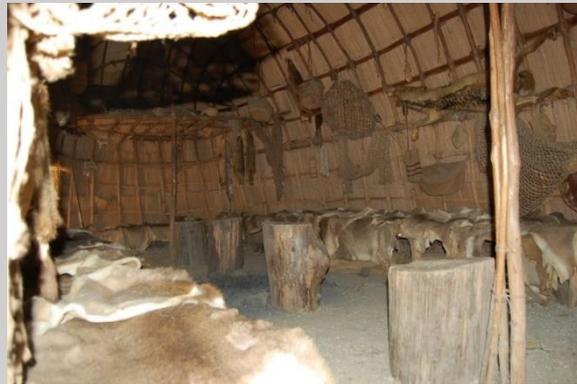
**So much to say about Jamestown and its importance in our history. Like all of our field trips they begin with the Visitors Center. This is just the outside, let's go inside.**



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**On May 14th, 1607 about 100 settlers sailed up the James River and established America's first permanent settlement. They sailed on 3 ships. Names of the ships were: Godspeed, Susan Constant and the Discovery. These, of course, are replicas.**

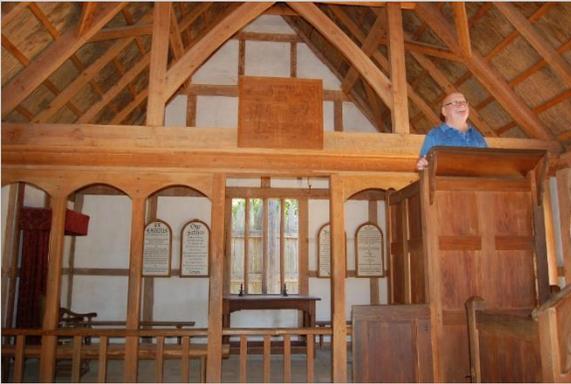


**This expedition was bankrolled by the Virginia Corporation. It was supposed to be a money making proposition eventually for both England and the stockholders of the Virginia Corporation. The word "Virginia" in the Virginia Corporation Was actually an English name. It was named after Elizabeth I who was known as the "virgin queen." The objective of the settlers was to search for gold and silver and ship it back to England. Sounds like something I'd heard before except it pertained to harvesting trees. The early settlers had to cope with primitive living conditions. The settlers had the Algonquin Indians to thank for insights on the construction and insulation of their primitive huts.**



**Getting up and down the River was imperative, especially for fishing. The cut-out log was Indian technology of the day.**

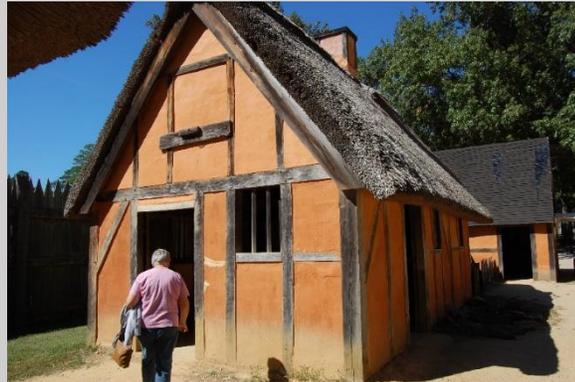
In 1610 additional settlers came to Jamestown with two more ships. Forts began to spring up in many other areas up and down the James River especially to protect themselves from the Powhatan Indians. Skilled tradesmen worked in their shops in the forts, and generally lived in the shops as well. Below, a guard house/armory was always one of the first buildings built in the fort.



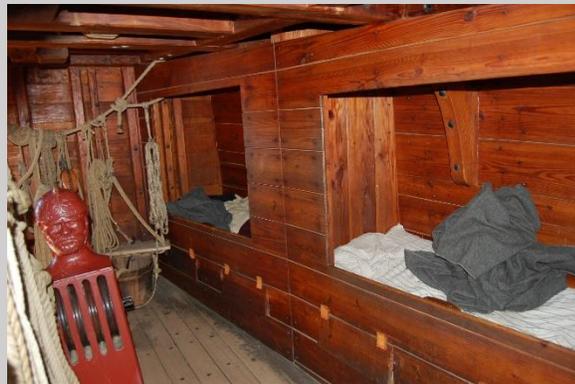
A chapel or house of worship was also one of those initial buildings. Standing at the pulpit in this early chapel was an actual minister trying to capture the moment in this venue. Below- With a Publix Supermarket still way into the future, storage buildings were also built. Clearing the fields and farming took time. It took until 1611 before the settlers had a decent crop.



Provisions included food. Gun powder and cannon balls were stored in various buildings.



Peace was very tenuous. 1614 brought about a much needed period of peace with the marriage of tobacco planter John Rolfe to Pocahontas. She was the daughter of Chief Powhatan. The peace was short lived. Pocahontas and family left the colony for England where she later died in 1617. Her father the Chief died in 1618. With his death the Algonquin Indians became very frustrated with the insatiable appetite of the colonists for more and more land. At the same time disease spread throughout many of the Indian tribes and reduced their numbers substantially. Although somewhat successful, the colonies were a disappointment to England and, as a result, King James I dissolved the Virginia Company and made Jamestown a colony of England. Please enjoy some of the many other pictures from this trip. Below is a modest home in the fort, most likely an officer's home.



One of the three ships?. Crew quarters. Crew members often ate and slept in the area of their responsibilities on the boat. This is the level below the main deck. Slaves and new settlers would reside down here as they sailed to Jamestown. Below is the view as seen from the visitor's center as we prepare to return home.



10.12.2014-Yorktown

As always we begin at the visitors' center.



The siege of Yorktown took place on October 19, 1781. The Continental Army was being led by George Washington. A unique statue of George Washington is seen below.



At this time, thanks to Ben Franklin, we were also getting assistance from the French army as well. Comte de Rochambeau was leading the French. The British Commander was Charles Cornwallis. Although this may have been thought of as strictly an American battle, it was International as well. Prior to the beginning of the actual siege at Yorktown the French and British navies were in a naval engagement amongst themselves at Chesapeake Bay. Both fleets were fairly evenly matched although the French supposedly sustained more damage to its fleet. The French and the British weren't on the best of terms and their entering this battle on the side of the Continental Army made things even worse.

An old friend of Washington was Baron von Steuben a Prussian who was instrumental in recruiting many German sympathizers to the American cause. He was given a detachment in the battle as well. As part of our aligning ourselves with France we also benefited from an agreement the French had with Spain. As a result this American conflict now benefited from a large force from Spain as well.

The British had the help of Prussian (German) mercenaries, paid to fight soldiers. *Oddly you can almost imagine Prussian forces being led by von Steuben in a conflict with their countrymen under the command of the British.*

Even Australia eventually became part of the mix. In the end the British were defeated, as we all remember, at Yorktown and some of the terms of the surrender forced the British to discontinue sending its prisoners to Georgia, a British colony. Now the British had to find another location to send its prisoners; *thus Australia was born.* Had it not been for the siege at Yorktown, Australia might have developed entirely differently.



***Redoubt #10 was to the left (very small American flag). Redoubt #9 was on the right, white flag.***

**A siege is defined as: “Siege warfare is a form of constant, low-intensity conflict characterized by one party holding a strong, static defensive position.” And this is exactly what happened on October of 1781. The British commander, Cornwallis, had his army at redoubt numbers 9 and 10, flags in the picture above on the right and left, with about 150 various heavy weapons going against the American and French armies and having over 250 cannons and an arsenal far greater than the British. *The biggest gun (cannon) at the time, and the Continental forces had dozens of them.***



***We’ve spoken about redoubt in the Valley Forge Blog Area behind a redoubt. The French stormed the British at redoubt #9. (Above) For days the American’s bombarded the British forces with as many as 1500 cannon balls at a rate of one shelling every minute for several days.***



### ***Redoubt #10***

Alexander Hamilton was to lead the assault on redoubt #10. In organizing the siege of redoubt #10, he instructed all of his men to leave all their ammunition behind. His men approached #10 in the dead of night with bayonets only. The battle would begin at first light. Reason for this thinking; Hamilton did not want any of his men tripping and accidentally firing his gun thereby making the British aware of the oncoming assault. The British were caught by surprise and the end came quickly with few casualties. The British were left with only one option, *surrender*. Even with the defeat of the British at Yorktown the American forces would not culminate the surrender until 1783 when the United States and Great Britain negotiated the final terms of the surrender with the Treaty of Paris. So as not to completely bore you with 7th grade history, the visitor's center has an elaborate replications of the conditions of those times as well as actual weapons of the times. The young man in the picture below gave an excellent presentation on the medical options at the times. Some of his accounts, especially concerning hygiene and operating procedures, made many adults cringe as well as some of the kids present.



This tent would be representative of what George Washington might have had as a battlefield command post. The area below had everyone guessing. This would be the cooking area. Each unit had a section to cook. This system minimized smoke and with each unit having its own cook, men were fed faster. A typical representation of a home at that time. Virginia is tobacco country and below is how it was dried in those times.



Six soldiers would be assigned to a tent this size. Usually only 4 would sleep at a time, two were usually on watch. *There is so much more I could add to this blog but 700 words is plenty. This is an awesome venue for families young and old to experience.*

### 10.05.2014-Chesapeake Bay RV Resort (TT/Encore)-Chesapeake Bay, VA



We made a decision to begin our trek to Chesapeake Bay RV Resort on Sunday and finish on Monday. The trip would be about four-hundred miles so taking a break half way would make it more palatable. Before resting we were able to circumvent both Baltimore and Washington. As I passed through Fairfax, VA I noticed exit 50 and wondered how much further it would be to reach an old friend, Paul. We've kind of lost touch with each other a couple of years ago, my fault mostly. Even an annual Christmas card was great just to know all was well with him and Sharon. We dry camped over at a rest area which was acceptable, but would prefer not to do it again. It was early to bed that evening and we were up just as early to finish our travels. Below. No!, our camper is not right on the water, Social Security is not that generous, but we are just up the street from the water.

It was a bit of a change from what we'd enjoyed the last thirty days. Warwick Woods, in St. Peters, PA would be a layover we will never forget. Chesapeake is a different format all together. *It's a corporate owned campground*, part of the Thousand Trails group of properties. Currently we are not members of Thousand Trails (TT). We do, however, have a two-week trial membership. Our attitude toward TT will change dramatically over the next "three" weeks. Below is the Trading Post. We're told the ice cream here is awesome.



Miss Patty, owner of Warwick Woods with her husband John offered up awesome size ice cream cones while we were there; she set the standard pretty high. We'll find out tomorrow, since this trading post is not open every day like Warwick Woods was; Chesapeake is already down a mark. In a few days we would be very pleased with the ice cream cones served. Just got here a couple of days ago, first day is set aside to just rest up from the trip. We took a walk around the campground and here are just a few pictures of this place. Nicely paved road surrounds the camp, which is nice and dirt roads lead to the individual camp sites.

Picture below taken from our site. Our neighbors are Bob and Carol and they travel in a Mandalay Motorhome. Really nice people and an awesome home on wheels.



Fishing dock with boats, canoes and kayaks are available to rent. Canoes rent for very reasonably. This appears to be a lake, but it's really the Piankatank River. It's an estuary leading into the Chesapeake Bay, which empties into the Atlantic eventually. What a great place to have a boat. This is the most protected location for those with boats we've ever seen.

Oct 16<sup>th</sup>.

We're going on two weeks here and we've decided not to leave next Monday, but we're going to bypass Shenandoah and spend an additional week here at Chesapeake RV Resort. This will save us a couple of hundred dollars in fuel as well as the inconvenience of all the hitching and unhitching.



Trying to beat Carla at Miniature golf still. Our friends Don and Carol left a couple of days ago and Pete and Joyce left yesterday. Learning how to play pickelball is still on our to-do list. I have no doubt that we will re-visit this beautiful campground sometime in the near future. During our stay here we will try to visit Williamsburg and the Battleship Wisconsin. I'm bettin the Battleship Wisconsin will take the prize for awesome places visited this year.

**10.13.2014-Williamsburg, VA**  
**Once again Carla and I seek out the Visitor's Center.**



**It's never very hard finding new places with Carla navigating. We park the Ram, follow the signs and this is what we see as an intro to the Visitors Center.**



**This was our first stop which would literally take us the entire day to experience. This building below, was the Capital of Virginia. It contained the highest court of the colony. On the first floor, East Wing, was the House of Burgesses.**



**Two elected members from each county served this court. They were elected by landowners only. They convened in April and October to hear both civil and criminal cases. Below is the Council Chamber in the West Wing. Twelve colonist, counselor's, were appointed by the King of England and met with the governor to help govern the state.**



**We next visited an Apothecary of the times. Having once been a pharmacist this should be interesting. This guy was excellent. Answered my questions and others without blinking an eye. Below a doctor would occupy part of the Apothecary Shop, at times.**



**This was the Secretary's Office. It was built to protect public papers. City officials felt this was important since the first capital burned to the ground in 1747 and all was lost. This building was built to be fireproof. Below- Notables of the time were buried here.**



**Examples of the architecture of the times. Another example. Many of these homes were not open to the public. They serve as residences for the many individuals that roll-play characters of that day...their jobs.**



First building was a residence, followed by a tavern which has everyone waiting to be served. Below is a jeweler and millinery shop. Barber and Peruke (Wig) maker. Definitely an expense we don't have these days. This Peruke maker went into great detail into what is involved in the wig business. One item of interest; Back in the day many young girls could earn additional money for the family by letting their hair grow quite long and then selling it to the local Peruke tradesman.



**James Craig Jeweler shop.**



These pictures demonstrate how the small cup with yellow/green flowers below was created from a single piece of silver plating about six inches across. The jeweler, with several types of hammers, would carefully mold this silver plate into the flower cup. The various forms on the workbench below shows the various stages of the process.

Assorted tool of a jeweler back in those days. Some of the tools the local jeweler would need to have to create various pieces. View the items on left side on table in the pictures above.



Reproductions of carriages of the times



The tailor and dressmakers shop.



The forge showing the iron maker with his apprentice. Very typical for the times. It may only be me, but we were there for quite a while and it looked like the apprentice was doing all the work. *Things haven't changed in two-hundred years.* We leave the main road and step down to tradesmen who work in other areas.



The printers' shop below with the Master Printer with the assistance of an apprentice could set the printer up for a full page in the course of a working day.

In those days the term “course of a working day” meant sun-up to sunset.



This shop was definitely one of the more interesting shops we'd seen that day. The furniture tradesman. His home...looks like he's doing a little better than the average villager.

The Cooper Smith above. Is not to be confused with the Coppersmith, should the town have one. His trade is to mold the wood slats that are needed to build barrels of all sizes, even a butter churn. Examples of his work lie all over. Yes, the tradesmen in this town are who they represent. Not sure of the pharmacist though. Below is a picture is of a typical professional's home/office, let's say lawyer, with his office off to the side of his home.

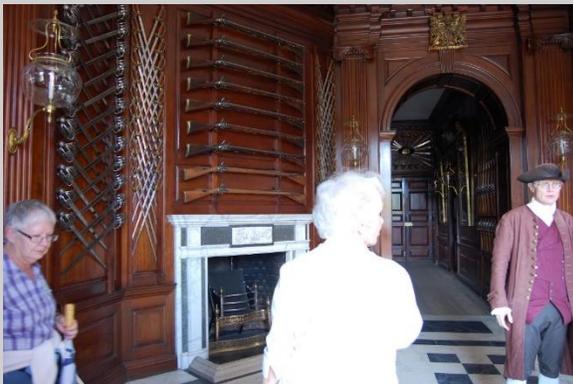


Typical brick maker's setup. He would not generally have a location in town. Bricks were not made ahead of time, since the town had no Home Depot yet. Instead he would contract with a client, move all of his building materials and actually build his furnaces on the property of the client. Clay is readily available in Virginia only a foot or two below the top soil. When his job, be it a chimney or home, was finished he would pack up and pray for another job to present itself. Below is the Peyton Randolph House.

**From 1721 to 1775 Peyton Randolph served the Colony of Virginia as President of the Continental Congress and other political offices.**



**The Continental Congress consisted of representatives from each colony and was the government of the times until we separated ourselves from Britain. (From the plaque outside of the Palace) The Governor's Palace and Gardens was the home of five Royal Lieutenant-Governors, two Royal Governors, and the first two Governors of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson. The Palace was completed in 1722 and destroyed by a fire in 1781 while being used as a hospital for American wounded in the battle of Yorktown, not far from here. The palace was reconstructed on its original foundation and the furnishings are representative of the times. This is the official end of this trip back in time. Enjoy some of the pictures of the inside of this palace.**



**The entrance to the Palace. Most of the villagers only got to see this much of the Palace if any of it. The palace was not only a home for the Governor it was also an office.**



**The Ballroom**



**Grand Dining Room**

**Central heat for the dining room.**



**The Gardens outside**

Above and below, the Palace back yard...The Governors got to live here free. The average settler, if lucky, was making 50 pounds a month, on the other hand the King was paying the Governor 2000 pounds a month.



Storage Cellar



Storage/ supplies.

The significance of this building is not so much the building but the name of its owner George Wythe. George Wythe had many achievements. Primarily, especially in Williamsburg, he was involved in the Patriot movement in Virginia. He was a member of the Continental Congress and was the first signer of the Declaration of Independence. The House, in 1776, would also be a home to Thomas Jefferson's family.



Below, see a close-up of the writing. I've always been fascinated with the writings on tombstones. No! The settlers of the day did know how to spell. The second word in the writing is "sleeps." In the 1700's it was customary to substitute lower case "f" in place of an "s." This would not happen at the beginning of a sentence however. Now were getting very hungry. The dress style and décor inside would be typical for the 1700's except for the plastic wrap and the coolers in the back of the shop.



**What a great day. Should you visit, plan on getting here early so you might see this entire colonial settlement before it starts to close around 4:30.**



**As you can probable tell from the picture above, Williamsburg can be an exhausting experience. As with a few other venues, Williamsburg, especially for a family with children, should be started early in the morning. Spend the extra money for the live interactive format. There's so much to learn here it would be a shame not to experience every ounce of it. We arrived too late to participate in the better program. Wear comfortable shoes, and possibly avoid a hot day, if possible. Right now we need a break before we start on our drive home.**

**Time for an Ice cream!**

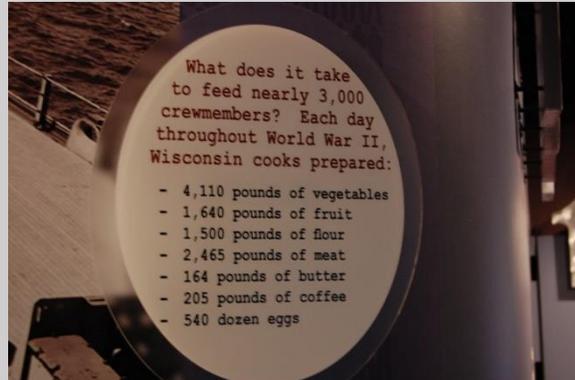
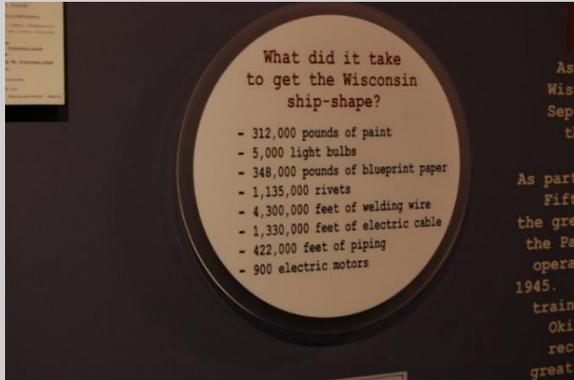
**10.16.2014-St. Therese, Church in VA**



**The Church of St. Therese, although very modest looking from the outside, it is so charming on the inside. Just a shot of the inside.**

## 11.05.2014-Battleship Wisconsin Norfolk, VA The birth of the Battleship Wisconsin.

In 1941 America found itself, once again, on the threshold of another war. The president at that time, President Roosevelt, authorized the construction of the USS Wisconsin and on January 25, 1941 its keel was laid in Philadelphia. In a relatively short amount of time, thirty-nine months, construction was complete. It was launched on December 7, 1943. It is customary with naval vessels to be addressed as “*USS and the state.*” However, because of the awesomeness of this vessel with the might it was capable of, it was most often referred to merely as the “*Battleship Wisconsin.*” It received its orders in 1943 and headed out to the pacific theater. Just some of its stats;



And how much food does it take to feed its crew of 3000 men, EVERY DAY? The Battleship Wisconsin was decked out with nine 16 inch guns that had a range of twenty miles. It also had three of these massive guns aft as well.

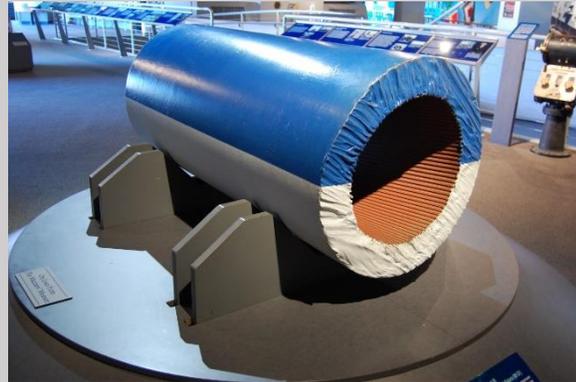


The missile below weighed in at about the same weight as a vintage VW Bug; 1900 pounds. In 1998 the VW was revised and so a new warhead was developed. The new war head was the Mark 8 AP and it weighed in at 1700 pounds each.

Each one of these guns (cannons) weighed in at almost 107 tons, and the Wisconsin had nine of them.



It took six of these individual explosive powder units to fire each 16 inch gun once. Below is a picture and example of how many layers of skin, ( metal plates,) which comprised the skin of the Wisconsin.



This cut out portion of a 16 inch gun measures two feet in length and weigh two tons/four-thousand pounds. The Battleship Wisconsin served with distinction however on December 7, 2000 she was decommissioned exactly fifty-seven years for the date she was launched. She was recommissioned twice, believe it or not. She served in WWII, the Korean War, and throughout the Cold war. Then again on Jan 17, 1991 in the Gulf War she coordinated the first Tomahawk missile strikes against Iraq. CNN reported that the Wisconsin lit up the skies as she launched the opening hostilities of the Gulf War.



Her dimensions were awesome at 45,000 tons, 887.3 feet long (almost three football fields), and a beam of one-hundred-eight feet. We were not permitted to view the Command Bridge that was an all-day ticket and we were too late to purchase that, but they had a mock-up in the museum which, they say, closely resembles the actual area.



Below is a picture of a wall mural of the Commanders and enlisted men of the Wisconsin in 1944 when it was commissioned. Let me just briefly list the fire power the ship had. 9- sixteen inch, 50-50mm guns, 20-five inch guns, 80-40mm guns and 4920mm guns. The sixteen-inch guns could accurately reach distances of twenty-four miles. Her guns were so powerful that the deck of the ship had to be built of teak, since metal would have been torn apart from the stress it exerted whenever they were fired. It was designed to carry 1900 sailors but during WWII and the Korean War it carried as many as 2700 sailors.



Looking out to the bow of this ship. Makes the anchor line we had on the PJ&CO look like a toy.



**This is the top third of the picture above. This section rotates. The rest of the gun turret is below deck. Occasionally someone will offer take a picture of us, usually after we do the same for them; whatever. Not bad looking for old folks**



**No idea who these girls are in the mess hall of the Wisconsin, but they offered there smiles at no charge.**



**A truly awesome picture of the Battleship Wisconsin as seen as you enter the visitor's center.**

## THE AUTHOR



*Off I went in 1962 entering the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and soon thereafter, in '67, became a Registered Pharmacist. I trudged along in this profession and, in the eighties, even had my own pharmacy. My soul however, way down deep, had a yearning to spend less time indoors and more time outdoors. By the time I turned fifty I knew a change was needed, especially after enduring one of Connecticut's worst winters on record.*

*So off we went again in search of a warmer climate and hoping to find a business opportunity before Carla, my wife, and I we ran out of money and starved to death. So I once again prayed to Him desperately for that opportunity to present itself and, as fate would have it, it did, and we would find ourselves in the Child Care Industry. Our center in Greenacres, Florida would have made us millionaires if we'd hung in there a few more years, but another opportunity presented itself in Orlando, FL, and once again we moved. So off we went again north to Orlando. We eventually purchased another child care center and I began a second career as a Commercial Realtor, brokering what else but child care centers, of course. We did okay, but as my Broker would attest to, I did not set the world on fire, but with excellent commissions we kept our heads above water. Within a few years the novelty of getting up early, wiping noses and lacing up shoes was wearing thin and Carla opted for retirement. I and Real Estate were getting along well until 2008, you remember - the Great Recession. We were heavily invested in, what would you think, rental properties of course, as well as a very expensive log cabin in Maggie Valley, North Carolina. Well many more prayers to Him got me through that decently. But even I, who could not fathom the possibility of retirement, was getting a little jealous of all the free time Carla was enjoying. So once again we made another change in our lives.*

*So off we went again this time deciding to free ourselves of the shackles of home ownership and job responsibilities, so I find myself, these days, feverishly typing assuming that James Patterson probably started this way as well, many years ago.*

*Moral here is that HE hears all our prayers.*

*Thank you,  
P. J.*