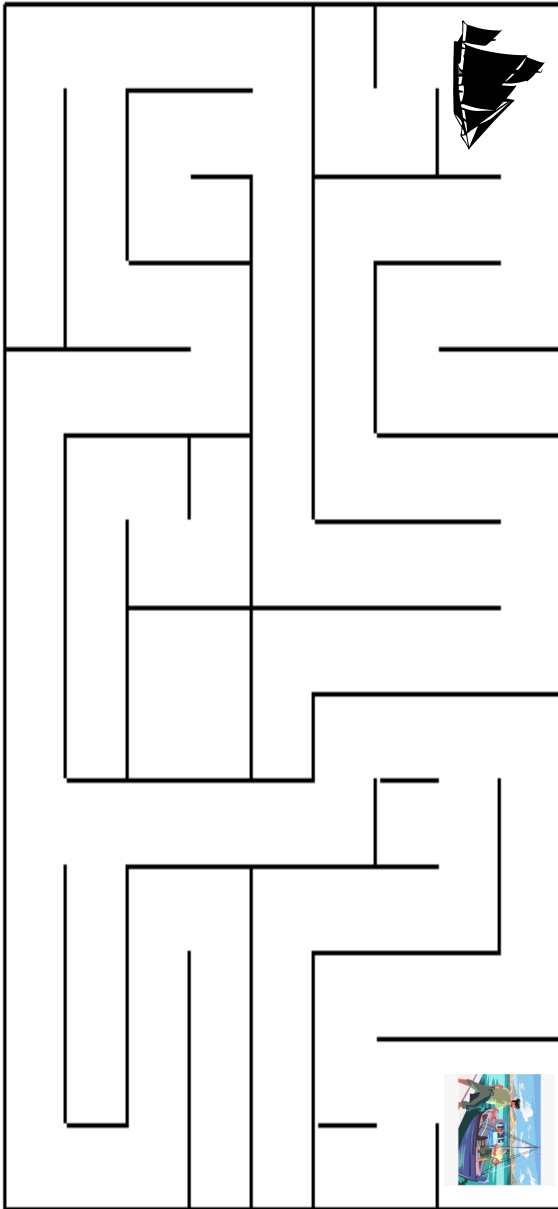


The Schooner *Bowdoin* wants to get home.
Help her navigate through the icy waters.



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BOOKS TO READ

The Arctic Schooner Bowdoin: A Biography
by Virginia Thorndike (Unity, Maine: North
Country Press, 1995).

*Arctic Odyssey: The Life of Rear Admiral
Donald B. MacMillan* by Everett S. Allen
(New York: Dodd, Mead, & Co., 1962).

WEB SITE TO VISIT

www.cr.nps.gov/maritime/nhl/bowdoin.htm

Q: What was the fitness level of Captain
MacMillan when he set sail on his last Arctic
voyage on the Schooner *Bowdoin*?



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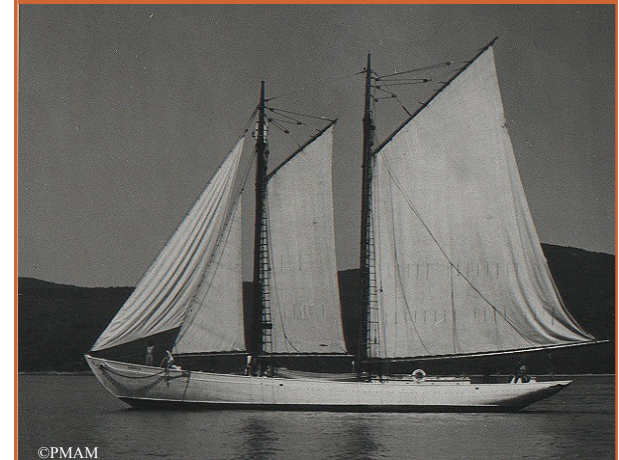
A: Ship-shape

The Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum
Bowdoin College
9500 College Station
Brunswick, Maine 04011-8495

www.bowdoin.edu/arctic-museum
phone: (207)725-3416
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Compiled by Kevin Doyle, Class of 2004
Made possible through the generosity and support
of the Friends of Bowdoin.

The Schooner *Bowdoin*



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What is the *Bowdoin*?
Why did Donald B. MacMillan design the
Schooner *Bowdoin*?
What does the *Bowdoin* do today?



The Peary-MacMillan
Arctic Museum
& Arctic Studies Center

Bowdoin College

Early History

Donald Baxter MacMillan, who graduated from Bowdoin College in 1898, loved the Far North and spent decades studying and exploring the Arctic. Early in his career he realized that he needed a special ship that was maneuverable, fast, and strong enough to withstand contact with the ice.



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Bowdoin grounded at Port Burwell, Labrador, 1934

In the spring of 1921, the Hodgdon Brothers of East Boothbay, Maine, finished building him such a vessel. She had a spoon-shaped bow so when pinched by ice she would rise up and rest on top of it. And she was fast, able to navigate rough seas, and avoid ice floes, icebergs, and other dangers.

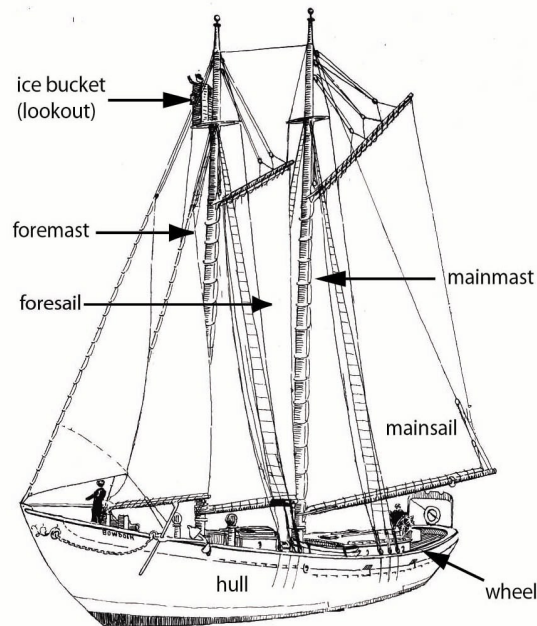


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Bowdoin in winter quarters with snow houses on deck

MacMillan named the schooner *Bowdoin* after the college he attended. He sailed her North that summer and froze her into the ice for 10 months. Almost every year, the *Bowdoin* cut across the waters along the Atlantic seaboard from Maine to Maritime Canada (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Labrador) to Greenland and beyond. Other than a brief period in which the United States Navy sailed the ship in World War II, the ever-busy *Bowdoin* traveled north to areas where few scientists or explorers had been.

Ship Architecture



Dimensions

LENGTH: 88 FEET	WEIGHT: 60 TONS
WIDTH: 21 FEET	DRAFT: 10 FEET



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Bowdoin at sea, 1946

Late History

MacMillan and the *Bowdoin* made twenty-six trips to the Arctic between 1921 and 1954, at which time MacMillan stopped sailing north.

In 1959, MacMillan commanded the *Bowdoin* once more, but this time he directed the schooner south to Connecticut and presented it to the Mystic Seaport Museum for display. In 1968, the Schooner *Bowdoin* Association purchased the vessel from the Museum, restored it, and brought it back to Maine.

The schooner is on the National Register of Historic Places and is recognized as the official sailing vessel of the State of Maine. She is also a training vessel used by the Maine Maritime Academy. With many a tale of courage and adventure, the *Bowdoin* is without question a testament to the seafaring fabric of both Bowdoin College and the State of Maine.