

Tributes to M. F. Maury Virginia's Virtuous Visionary

by
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To the mariner, Matthew Fontaine Maury not only is forever linked with the title "Pathfinder of the Seas," but for his role in developing Wind and Current Charts in 1847, the predecessor of today's NIMA Pilot Chart Atlas.

Within the world of oceanography he is recognized as the "Father of Oceanography," for his lifelong work and studies. Maury's 1855 *The Physical Geography of the Sea* is considered the first modern textbook of oceanography. In the field of astronomy, he is a pioneer of cataloging the stars, which he began in 1845. He believed that the United States should not be dependent upon foreign calculations and celestial observations, and in 1849 was responsible for establishing the American Nautical Almanac Office.

In 1853, Maury organized the first International Maritime Meteorology Conference in Brussels and represented the United States. Filling out a weather log? Maury founded Naval Meteorology and "standardized" oceanographic data log entries of naval vessels and merchant marine ships. An American pioneer he wore many hats before, during, and after the Civil War. Throughout his distinguished career and diverse life, he served as: First Superintendent of the National Observatory in Washington, D.C.; Confederate Head of Coast Harbor and River Defences; and Physics Chairman at the Virginia Military Institute.

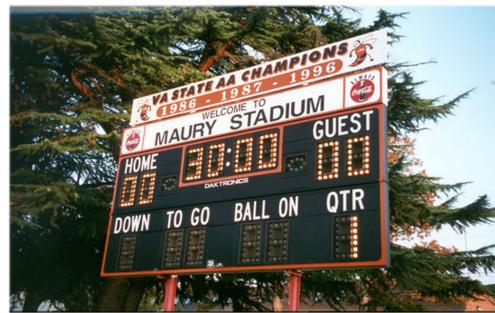
It is only fitting that Matthew F. Maury is memorialized in so many ways. This is the first multi-page pilot chart article ever to have been produced...yet another fitting tribute!



(Photo courtesy of NAVOCEANO)

Matthew Fontaine Maury Oceanographic Library

With over 160,000 volumes of information, the Matthew Fontaine Maury Oceanographic Library, located at the Naval Oceanographic Office at Stennis Space Center, MS, contains the world's foremost military collection of physical oceanography materials. From modern CD-ROMs to handwritten 18th century ships' logs, the library is noted for the technical diversity of its holdings. The Maury Library was named and occupied in March, 1986, and is a valuable resource for scientists in government, academic, and private industry.



(Photo courtesy of City of Fredericksburg, Office of Economic Development and Tourism)

Maury Stadium

Maury Stadium located in Fredericksburg, VA, hosts James Madison High School football games and city festivals.



The National Imagery and Mapping Agency and Maury Hall sit along the Potomac River in Bethesda, MD.



NIMA's Maury Hall

This oil painting graces the entrance to NIMA's Maury Hall. In 1989, George Carter Werth and twin brother Lewis Herndon Werth, and another brother Capt. James Maury Werth USN (Ret.) all great-grandsons of Matthew F. Maury were on hand at the dedication ceremony. The United States Naval Academy also has a Maury Hall; in addition, there is the Maury-Brooke Hall at the Virginia Military Institute.



Maury Display Case

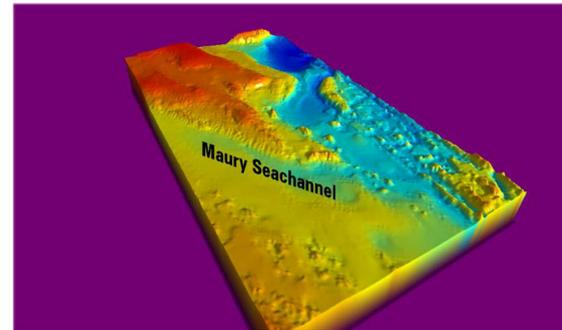
Rear Admiral Richard D. West, Oceanographer and Navigator of the Navy, stands by a Maury display case and an "1851 Whale Chart" outside his office at the United States Naval Observatory, Washington D.C. Several of Maury books, including an 1853 Sailing Directions are displayed with NIMA's Sailing Directions and CD-ROM of today.



(Photo courtesy of Virginia Department of Transportation)

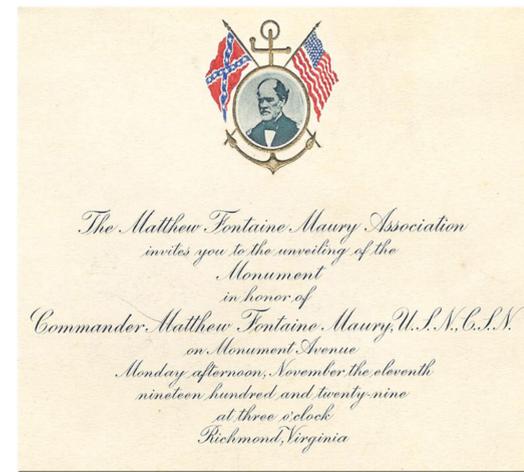
Road Marker

Maury was disinterred in Lexington and moved to Richmond seven months after death. VMI cadets escorted the cortege along the North River. Goshen Pass outside of Lexington was a favorite spot of Maury. At this location his casket was covered with mountain laurel and rhododendron and placed on a train for final burial in Richmond. In 1923, at Goshen Pass, a highway marker in his honor was dedicated. Today, Virginia's Department of Transportation maintains this marker. In addition, Virginia named Highway 39 out of Goshen the "Maury Highway," and the North River became the "Maury River."



Maury Seachannel 56°33' N, 024°00' W.

The Advisory Committee on Undersea Features approved this name on February 18, 1969. The depth is approximately 3,200 meters. Maury prepared charts of the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean between the United States and Europe, and assisted Cyrus W. Field with laying the first transatlantic cable. The first official message was sent on August 16, 1858. Maury's knowledge made this achievement possible and established him as the locator of the first transatlantic cable. There is also the "Maury Deep" south of the Aleutian Islands located in 51°00' N, 170°00' W.



(Jan K. Herman collection)

Invitation

The Monument was unveiled by two of Maury's great-grandchildren in an impressive military and civilian setting on November 11, 1929. Miss Mary Maury Fitzgerald and Master Matthew Fontaine Maury Osborne pulled the cords which released the canvas spread over the monument. Note the "U.S.N., C.S.N." after Maury's name recognizing his role in both United States Navy and the Confederate States Navy.



Matthew Fontaine Maury Monument

This Matthew Fontaine Maury Monument stands at the end of the historic section of statues on Monument Avenue in Richmond. The Women's Club of Virginia was the driving force behind the construction of this monument raising \$60,000 needed from donations by the State of Virginia, the City of Richmond, and private benefactors. William F. Sievers, a native from Richmond, was the designer. Stylistically, this sculpture is the most complex of all the monuments. Sievers captured an entire range of experiences in this monument and equated Maury with playing a part in all of them. The statue is composed with images of water, land, and sky, relating to Maury's achievements in oceanography, navigation, and meteorology. Since Maury's talents reached beyond the Civil War, his statue has been referred to as the "man of peace" amidst the other Confederate war heroes. This was the last of the Confederate monuments to be erected on Monument Avenue and joins statues of Robert E. Lee, "J.E.B." Stuart, Jefferson Davis, and "Stonewall" Jackson.



IN MEMORY OF
MATTHEW FONTAINE MAURY,
BORN IN
SPOTTSYLVANIA CO. VIRGINIA,
JANUARY 14th 1806.
DIED IN
LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA,
FEBRUARY 1st, 1873.

"ALL IS WELL"

Grave

"All is well" Maury's last words is etched on his grave stone. His final resting spot is in Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, VA. Although he died on February 1, 1873, in Lexington, VA, Maury's widow Ann Herndon, wished her husband to be buried in the former Confederate capital. She purchased Mount-26 within the dignitary section, and Maury was interred on September 27, 1873. Called President Circle, behind Maury in the black iron birdcage, is the grave of President James Monroe, and to the left (not pictured), is where President John Tyler is buried.



Maury High School

Originally the Norfolk High School, in February of 1911, it was re-named the Matthew Fontaine Maury High School. This is a postcard dated 1917. In 1950, Maury's great-grandson, Capt. James Maury Werth graduated Maury High and went on to serve his country by joining the Navy. His last assignment before retiring from active duty was to serve as the Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington, thus following in the footsteps of his famous great-grandfather.