Shipbuilding in Northport
The Builders and Boats That Shaped a Community

THE CARLL SHIPYARD
After losing their father as teenagers, brothers Jesse and David Carll took an apprenticeship in the shipyards of Port Jefferson. With their newfound skills and $400 in inheritance money, they returned to Northport in 1854 and purchased their own shipyard along Bayview Avenue. Word of their fine craftsmanship spread quickly.

JESSE CARLL
After a disagreement in 1865, Jesse’s brother David opened his own shipyard in City Island. Jesse went on to become the leading shipbuilder in Northport and was rated AAA by Dun and Bradstreet.

JESSE JARVIS
Jarvis was described as ‘a shrewd ship builder, a rich man, and, in all points, the leading man in town.’ In his shipyard along Woodbine Avenue, Jarvis built at least 35 ships between 1841 and 1883.

OLIVER HARTT
Oliver L. Hartt, grandson of Samual Prior Hartt and son of Erastus, continued the family business into the next century making the transition from wooden sail-powered vessels to steamers.
SAIL MAKERS, BLACKSMITHS & DRY GOODS
Many sea captains, sailors, and ship builders made their homes and businesses along Bayview and Woodbine Avenues. Northport began to grow as a commercial and agricultural area and support businesses such as blacksmiths, sail makers and dry goods stores popped up to meet the needs of workers. Churches, schools, banks and saloons were soon to follow.

By 1865 the Carll Shipyards had grown to 22 acres and Jesse Carll earned the name, “Boss Carll.”

STEAMER
A ship that is propelled primarily by steam power, which drives the propellers or paddlewheels. The name of the ship often uses the prefix designation S.S. for Screw Steamer, or P.S. for Paddle Steamer.

SCHOONER
A sailing ship with two or more masts, typically with the foremost smaller than the mainmast, and having gaff-rigged lower masts.

SLOOP
A sailing boat with a single mast, with one headsail in front of the mast, and one mainsail aft of the mast.

BARK
A three-masted sailing ship, square rigged at the fore and main masts, and fore-and-aft rigged at the mizzen.

STEAMING AND BENDING WOOD
Large timbers of pitch pine and oak were steamed in a long box to make them more pliable. After steaming, workers would carry the large timbers to the ship for bending and fastening onto the vessel’s hull.