



435 New Fourth Street, Fairport Harbor, OH 44077

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 1, 2026

FAIRPORT HARBOR PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTS THE WRECK OF THE BARKENTINE CLOUGH A TALK BY JACK PAPES

On August 1st the Fairport Harbor Public Library will host “The Wreck of the Barkentine Clough,” a talk by Fairport Harbor Historical Society member Jack Papes. The talk will be held in conjunction with a micro exhibit at the Fairport Harbor Lighthouse and Maritime Museum highlighting the discovery of the shipwreck, the vessel’s history, and the underwater research that made its identification possible. The exhibit will be on view at the Museum throughout the 2026 season.

In February 2026 the National Museum of the Great Lakes (NMGL) announced the identification of a 19th century shipwreck discovered roughly 19 miles west of Fairport Harbor, Ohio as the bark Clough. The site was located by the Cleveland Underwater Explorers (CLUE), a nonprofit group dedicated to Lake Erie shipwreck research and discovery.

A barkentine, or bark is a type of sailing vessel featuring three or more masts carrying square sails on the foremast and fore-and-aft sails on the other masts behind it. The barkentine Clough was built in 1867 in Black River, Ohio. The 125-foot stone-hauling vessel was owned by Amherst quarry businessman Baxter Clough. In September 1868, just 14 months after its construction, the ship departed heavily laden with tons of grindstone and massive sandstone blocks. It sank during a fierce gale, tragically taking the lives of seven out of the eight crew members on board.

In addition to working with CLUE, Jack Papes has also volunteered with Ohio’s Maritime Archaeology Survey Team (MAST) since 2001, primarily supporting field operations such as shipwreck surveys, buoy deployment and retrieval, and receiving training in vessel construction, ship parts, maritime law, survey logistics and documentation technical skills that proved critical during the project. This training and expertise proved invaluable in his role in documenting and confirming the wreck’s identity. The presentation will focus on Papes’ personal experiences in contributing to the discovery, logging in over ten dives across the 2024 and 2025 seasons.

The talk will take place on Saturday, August 1, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the library conference room. This event is free and open to the public, but seating is limited so reservations are suggested. For more information, call the library at 440-354-8191