



Eric Mills (left), author of *The Chesapeake Bay in the Civil War*, is featured in the Steamboat Museum's new introductory film, developed by Mattingly Productions of Irvington.

## *New film introduces 'Bay at War' exhibit*

*by Kelsey Robusto*

The Steamboat Era Museum in Irvington recently unveiled its new in-house theater, which plays an introductory film explaining the current exhibit.

The 12-minute video recounts the importance of the Chesapeake Bay during the Civil War and is narrated by Roger Mudd, former CBS and NBC news anchor.

The museum received funds from The Suhor/Graham Foundation to build the theater.

Visitors are invited to view the film when they enter, said Anne McClintock, museum vice-president and volunteer. "It gives them a general idea of what they will be seeing."

The film reviews the Chesapeake Bay's significance and importance to the Civil War. All of the major Civil War battles happened in the surrounding bay area, including many port cities.

The theater and film mark major steps the Steamboat Era Museum has taken to become

technologically advanced. The current exhibit also has two oral history kiosks with touch screens.

"We've come a long way in a short period of time," McClintock observed about the Irvington museum's development, "and now we've moved a little bit into the technological age."

The museum also features dioramas built by Robert Butler, George Perry and William Wright. They depict the Irvington steamboat wharf, Civil War action along the river

at Camden and Pop Castle, and a Confederate night raid. Each miniature is finely detailed.

The museum also features a "closet museum" filled with artifacts from Camden and a visual history of the Harriet DeFord, a Union steamer that was one of the final casualties of the war. Students at Lancaster High School illustrated the Harriet DeFord's history, and a piece of the vessel recovered from Dymer Creek is on display.

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays.

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