

PAPAĀNAUMOKUĀKEA Marine National Monument

NEWS RELEASE
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CONTACT
Dan Dennison
(808) 397-2660 ext. 230
dan.dennison@noaa.gov

REACTION TO THE DISCOVERY OF THE *TWO BROTHERS* SHIPWRECK

●**Nathaniel Philbrick-New York Times Best Selling Author, *In the Heart of the Sea***

"Having spent several years of my life researching and writing about Captain George Pollard Jr, the Nantucket whaling captain who lost two ships--one to a whale, the other to a reef--I was delighted and astounded to hear of the discovery of the *Two Brothers*' remains. This is what underwater archaeology is all about: finding the physical evidence that makes the long ago past real."

"Back in the early 19th century, America had more frontiers than the West: there was also the sea, and the Nantucket whaleman was the sea-going mountain man of his day, chasing the sperm whale into the distant corners of the Pacific Ocean. Americans today have lost track of the importance the sea had in creating the nation's emerging identity. It wasn't all cowboys and Indians; there was also the whalemens and Pacific." (Excerpted from an interview with Nathaniel Philbrick: Smithsonian Institution Libraries)

●**Stephen C. White-President, Mystic Seaport, The Museum of America and the Sea, Mystic, CT**

"This significant discovery forges a new link in the 200+ year history of a vanished American global industry, from Nantucket shore whaling to Captain Pollard's memorialized *Essex* and the now located *Two Brothers*, and ultimately to the vibrant *Charles W. Morgan* at Mystic Seaport, CT and the exciting research being done by NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries. All are dynamic portals to a great American era otherwise now lost to time."

●**Ben Simons-Chief Curator, Nantucket Historical Association, Nantucket, MA**

"We have been very excited to follow the research of Dr. Kelly Gleason and her colleagues into the wreck site of the Nantucket whaleship *Two Brothers*. The NOAA team has looked into the original account of the uncanny events surrounding the original wreck left by *Essex*-survivor Thomas Nickerson, and used other supporting documentary evidence in the Nantucket Historical Association collection and elsewhere to link the material evidence of the wreck site with the events as they unfolded on February 11, 1823. Their work has brought this dramatic historical event back to life out of the pages of history, and offered a thrilling glimpse of Nantucket's storied whaling past. Very little of the physical legacy of Nantucket whaleships remains, so the exciting prospects of marine archeology are seemingly just beginning to open new windows into the whaling past. Congratulations from all of us at the Nantucket Historical Association and on the island of Nantucket!"

●**Georgia Fox-Archaeologist and Conservator, California State University-Chico**

"One of the great things about doing archaeology and the conservation and preservation of such objects as those from the *Two Brothers* shipwreck is the pure joy of discovery and wonder about the people who made and used these things. Being an anthropologist and archaeologist allows you that window into the past, understanding the endeavors of the people who faced the unknown and the unknowable as they sailed into the deep blue waters of the vast and endless Pacific."

●**James Delgado-Director, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Maritime Heritage Program**

"It continues to amaze and delight us, that evidence resting on the ocean floor for nearly two centuries, helps reveal our collective history. It's ironic that we are now able to protect both the marine resources (whales) and the heritage resources (whaling ships) that very nearly brought whales to extinction."

