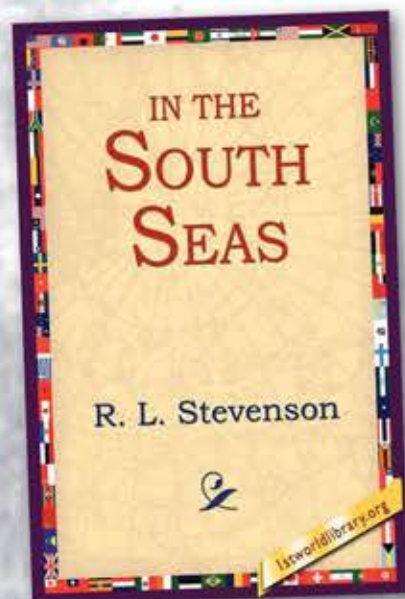
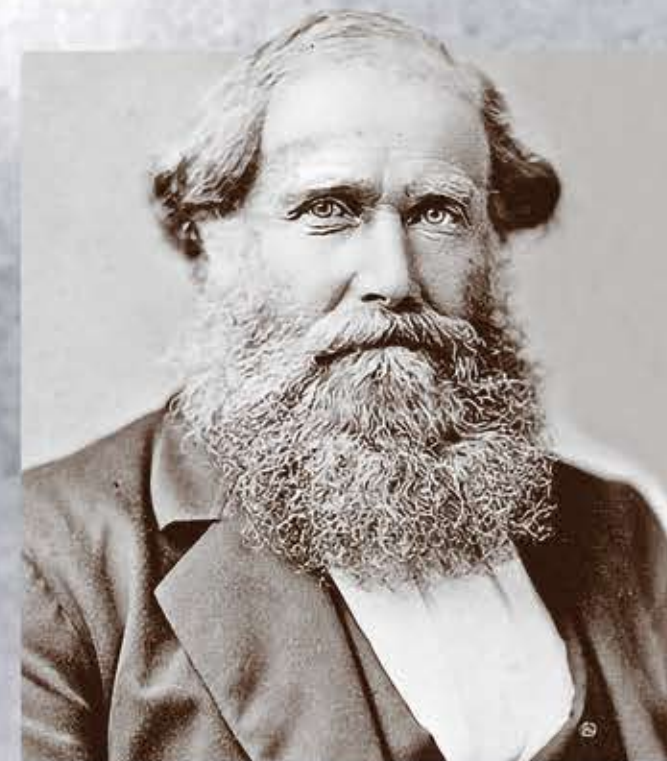


# PRESERVATION ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE

HOW AN HISTORIC SHIP WOUND UP BECOMING A PILE OF LUMBER  
BY ROSS GRAYSON



Robert Louis Stevenson wrote his classic *In the South Seas* while aboard *Equator*.



Master shipbuilder Matthew Turner was "the granddaddy of big-time wooden shipbuilding on the Pacific Coast" with over 228 seagoing vessels to his name.

**H**ow does an historic vessel that once was home to the great author Robert Louis Stevenson and influenced some of his literary masterpieces wind up as so much scrap? It is a sad and distressing tale that highlights how little importance the modern world puts on our past while also underlining the problems of maritime preservation.

During the late 1880s, the port at Benicia, California, housed a thriving ship-building community. One such operator was Matthew Turner and he not only built ships, but he also designed them. Turner would become known as "the granddaddy" of big-time wooden shipbuilding.

This poor-quality photograph of *Equator* is a rare glimpse of the ship taken during December 1889 at Apia, Samoa.