

Article sent to Wooden Boat - 1/88

The sailing yacht ELF, designed and built in 1888 by George F. Lawley & Sons has reached her centenary year in remarkable condition. ELF is the last of a small class of "30 Footers" active in New England during the late 1880's and 1890's. Built of longleaf yellow pine on sawn oak frames the hull is estimated at 80% original materials.

Now owned and maintained by the Classic Yacht Restoration Guild located in Earleville, Maryland on the Northern Chesapeake Bay, ELF will be on display at several northeast classic yacht and maritime festivals during the 1988 season. ELF measures 48 feet overall with her current yawl rig. The Classic Yacht Restoration Guild is planning final restoration projects necessary to recreate the original cabin, deck and rig configurations which featured over 2000 feet of canvas in the racing trim necessary for the unlimited 30 Footer class.

ELF was designed and built for William H. Wilkinson a pre-eminent yachtsman of his day who is credited with several innovative rigging techniques including mast mounted winches and wire halliards swagged to rope leads. ELF's subsequent owners included Mr. Henry Howard who initiated off-shore cruising in small boats with a passage from Marblehead to Halifax Nova Scotia in 1893.

The Classic Yacht Restoration Guild has a current membership of 150 involved in a variety of restoration projects on wooden boats donated during the past three years. The Guild promotes restoration and preservation of wooden boats through educational programs held throughout the year. 1988 will be dedicated to fundraising and work on ELF. The Guild can be contacted at 683 Pond Neck Road, Earleville, Maryland 21919.