



"Whiskey and Five Men"; Civil War Smugglers at Holland Straits, by Dr. Phillip Hesser, 3 June 2015

In April 1864, Captain John A. Graham and Corporal William T. Stewart of Dorchester County's Company B, First Eastern Shore Regiment of Maryland Volunteers, intercepted a log canoe carrying Delawarean Samuel Batson Hearn and four other men heading for Virginia. Apprehended with kegs of alcohol and nails, and supplies of shoe leather and thread, Hearn and his colleagues were charged, convicted, and sentenced to death for acting as spies for the Confederacy and violating the laws of war. This talk went behind the court martial files to shed light on who was Hearn, what he was carrying, where was he apprehended and by whom, why he might have carried out such a mission, and what happened to him and his confederates.

Dr. Phillip Hesser has taught history in several universities in the United States and Africa, and served as program officer and director with the United Nations and the Academy for Educational Development. He now teaches at Salisbury University, Chesapeake College, Association for Lifelong Learning of Salisbury, and the Academy for Lifelong Learning of the Chesapeake Maritime Museum. The Friends of Blackwater recently published his book, *What a River Says: Exploring the Blackwater River & Refuge*.