

# Exploring The Steamboat Bertrand

With The Shiloh Boys



"Buffalo"  
Chip



Dead  
Eye



Daughters of The American Colonists Nebraska State Historical Society



He was born on the banks of the Missouri River. In the hell-hole river town of Sioux City. The Great White Scout goes by many names...the Cheyenne call him Wakamanniplot. Which means "Big Buffalo Chip". Nerves of steel and eyes like a baby hawk, the Great White Scout was known far and especially wide for his many adventures. Next to the scout's side was Dead Eye, the comical sidekick. Talk about dead weight, he reminded people of John Belushi in the movie Continental Divide or maybe John Candy in Wagons East. No longer able to read a map or road signs, he was not much use. He did have, however, an uncanny ability to spot a Dairy Queen from great distances. A gift from his older brothers the legends say.

The Shiloh Boys spent years reading books, newspaper micro films and historical maps in their latest historical adventure: To find and explore the Steamboat Bertrand.

A man wearing a black baseball cap with the 'Yankees' logo and a black jacket with white sleeves is seen from behind, looking across a wide river. The riverbank is lined with green trees and bushes. A thought bubble is superimposed over the scene, containing the text 'The search is on, but where to begin?'.

The search is on, but where to begin?

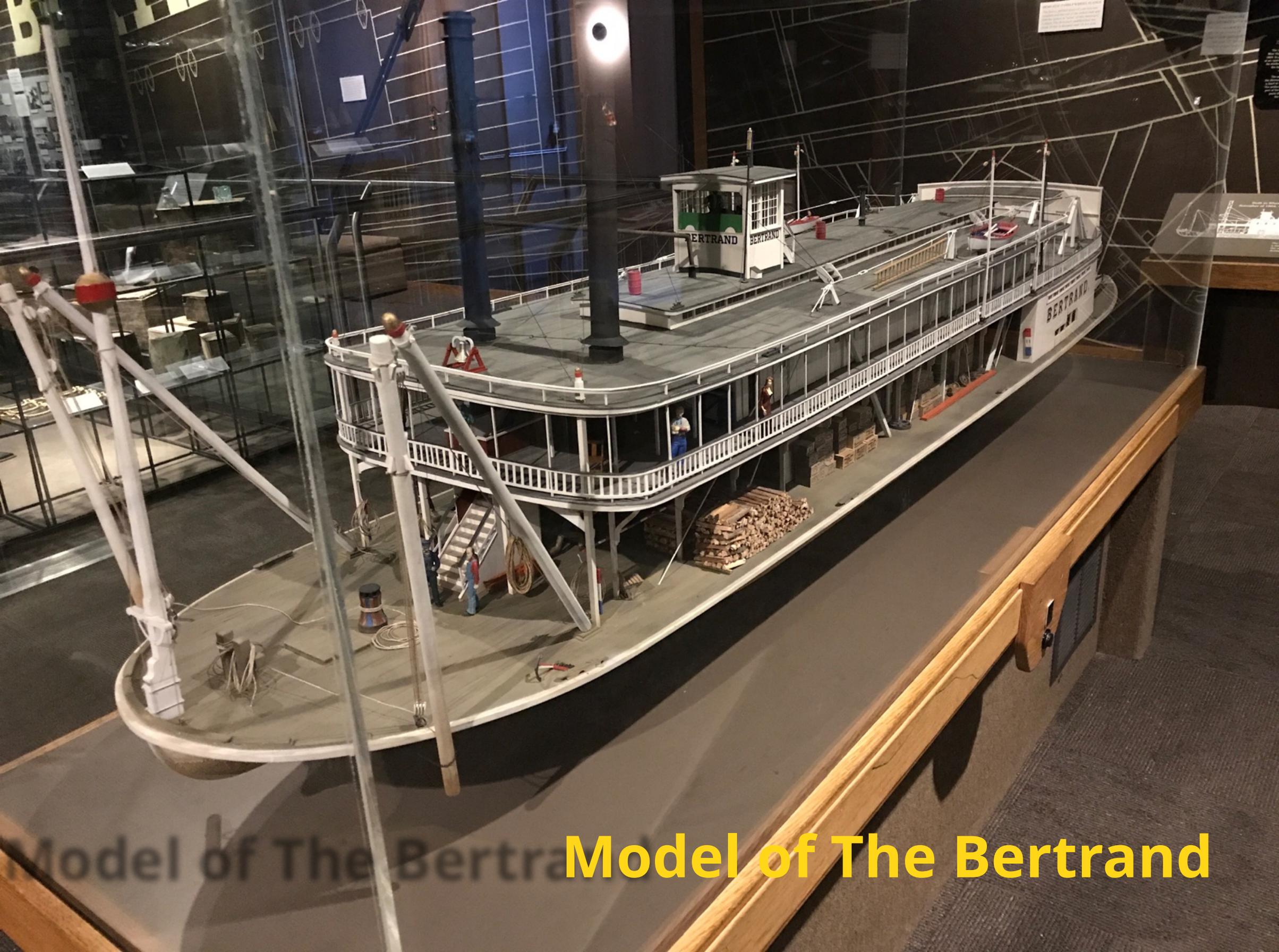






**EUREKA!!**

**After miles of hiking, The Shiloh Boys discovered the actual place where they dug the Bertrand and it's cargo from the mud.**



Model of The Bertrand **Model of The Bertrand**



**Wonderful exhibits for the tourists, but the two "Historians" are invited to the huge back room/warehouse. Where they are encouraged to explore any box or artifact!**



April 1, 1865:

A Moment  
Frozen  
in Time

OPEN SH 044

OPEN SH 045

OPEN SH 046

EE

PLEASE  
HANDLE WITH CARE  
GLASS

CASTOR 02 SH 018

134  
FREE



Scout could not keep his eyes off the  
**Farm tools.**



**The Great Scout could not keep his eyes off the liquor bottles.**



EX-142

EX-140

EX-143

EX-141

EX-144

DESO  
2041-10

DESO  
1997-11

DESO  
1299-2

DESO  
M14-12

DESO  
1947-12

DESO  
1967-11

DESO  
1947-11

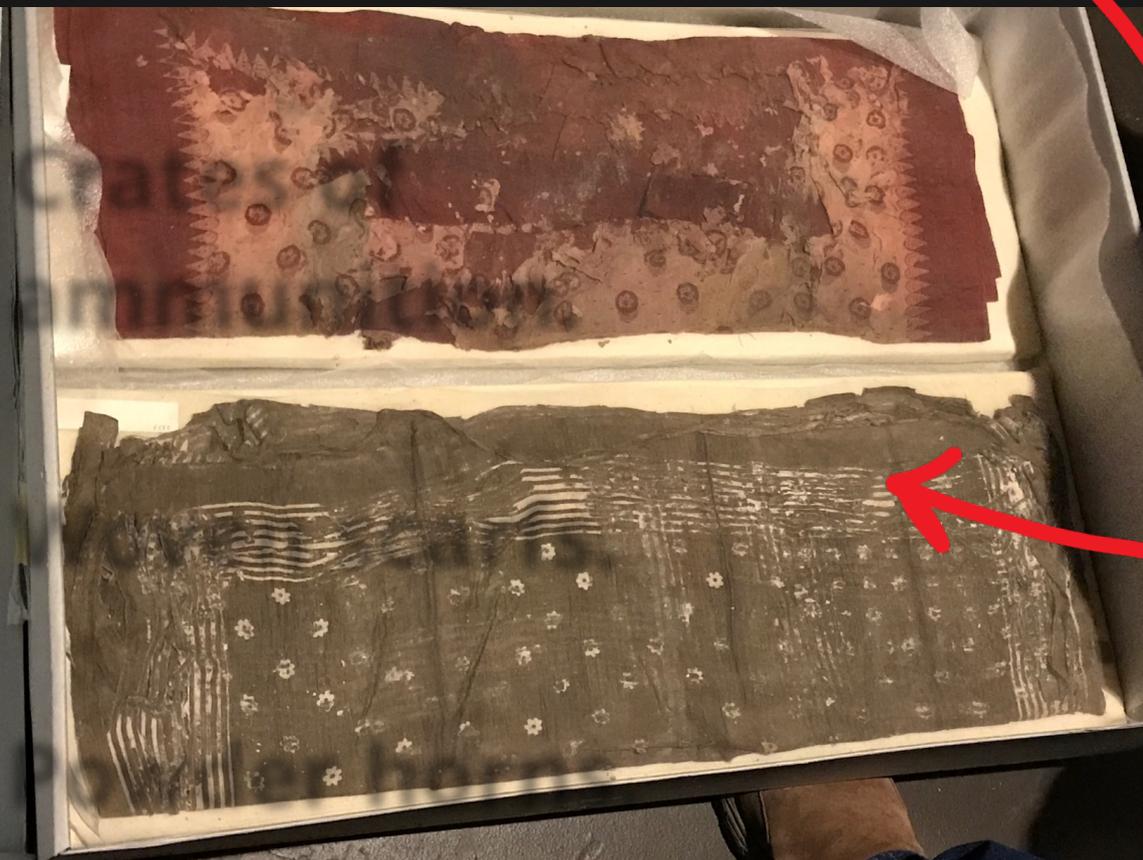
DESO  
162-11

DESO  
1612-11

DESO  
1321-4

A museum display of numerous dark, spherical cannonballs arranged in a wooden crate. The crate is divided into several compartments, and the balls are neatly packed. Some balls show signs of age and wear. In the background, there are other museum exhibits, including a large, dark, cylindrical object. A person's legs and a yellow flashlight are visible on the left side of the frame.

**Cannonballs  
heading to an  
upriver fort.**



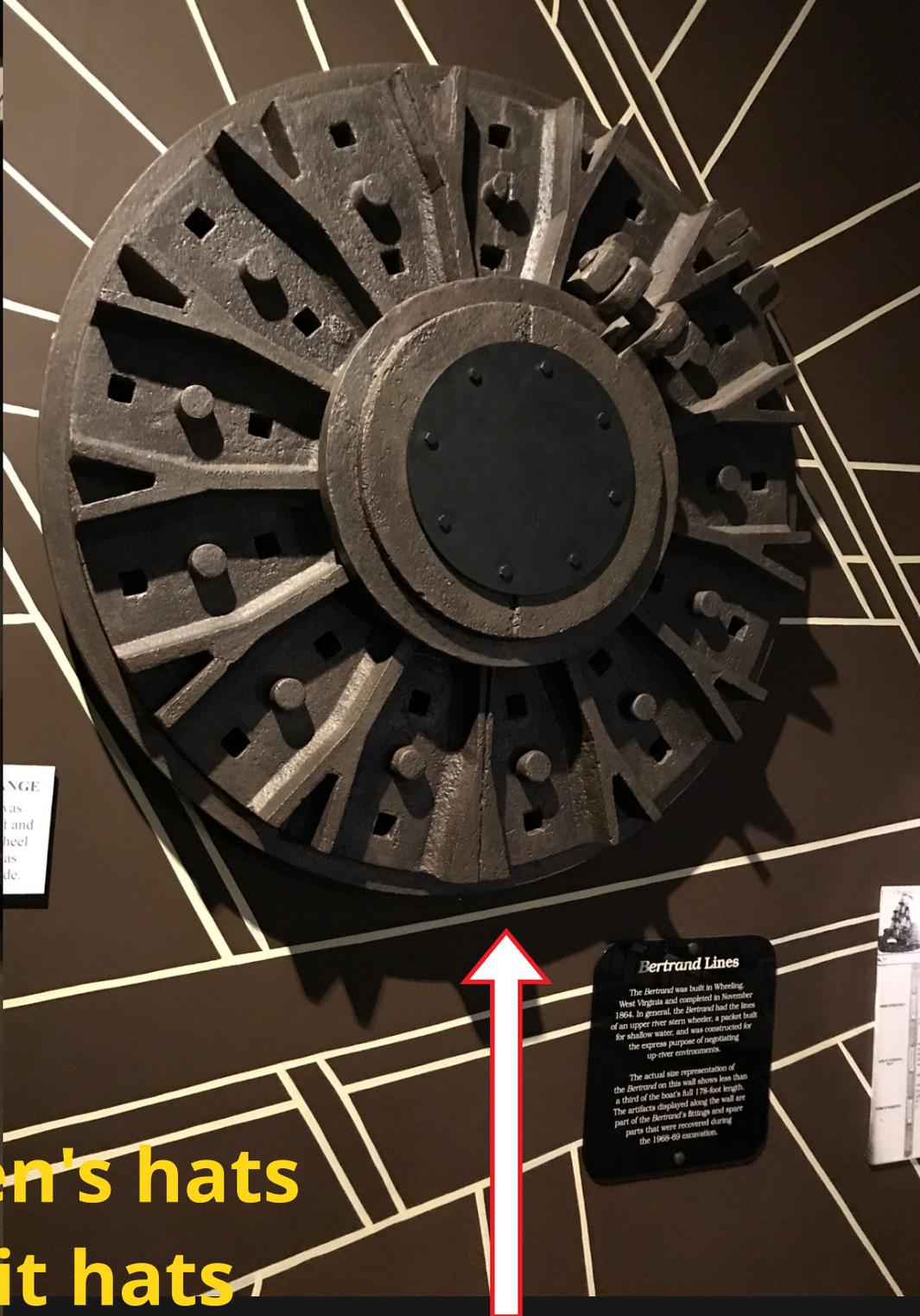
**Crates of  
ammunition.**

**Woven scarfs.**

**Powder horns.**



Men's hats  
Knit hats  
Ice skates  
Buckets



**Bertrand Lines**  
The Bertrand was built in Wheeling, West Virginia and completed in November 1864. In general, the Bertrand had the lines of an upper river stern wheeler, a packet built for shallow water, and was constructed for the express purpose of negotiating up-river environments.  
The actual size representation of the Bertrand on this wall shows less than a third of the boat's full 178-foot length. The artifacts displayed along the wall are parts of the Bertrand's fittings and spare parts that were recovered during the 1968-69 excavation.

Huge gear near the paddle wheel.



END CAP 11 SHELF 2

PLATTERS

END CAP 11 SHELF 3

PLATES

END CAP 11 SHELF 4

BOWLS

END CAP 11 SHELF 5

CUPS

PITCHERS

END CAP 12 SHELF 1

LAMP WELLS

END CAP 12 SHELF 2

LAMP WELLS

END CAP 12 SHELF 3

CROWNERS

LAMP WELLS

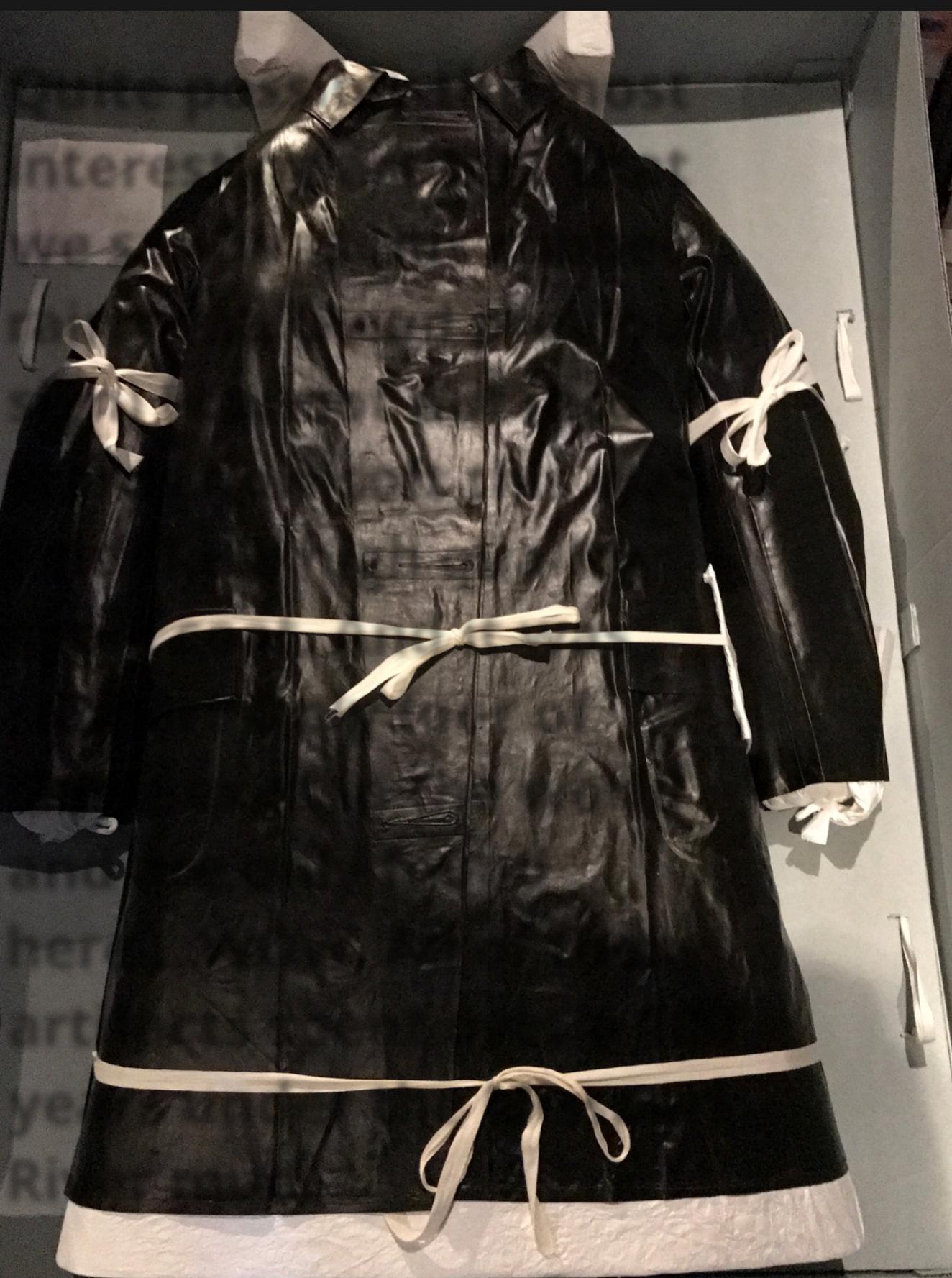
END CAP 12 SHELF 4

PLATE STANDS

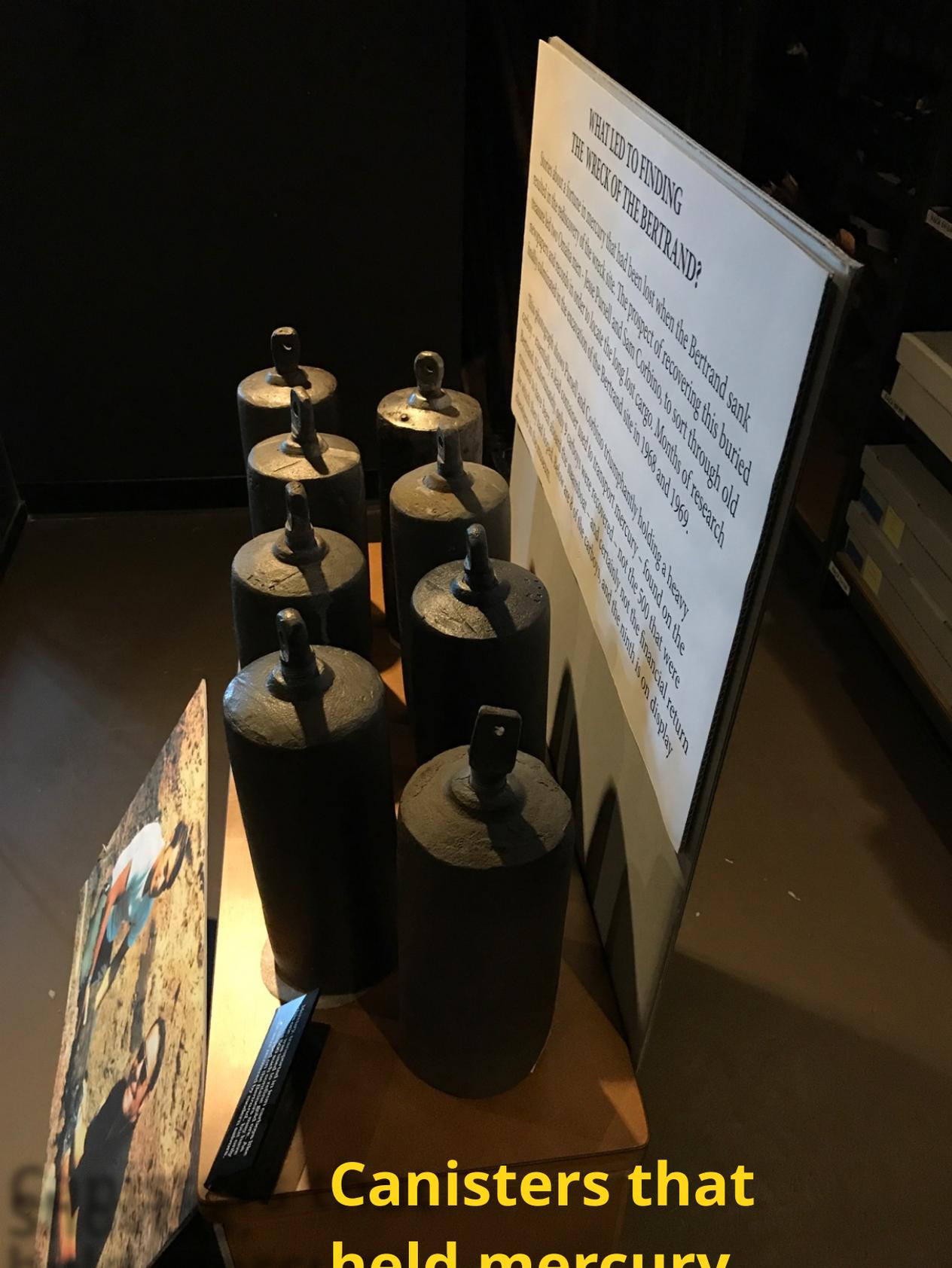


## RUBBER RAINCOATS - A UNIQUE CARGO

Rubber is known to have been used to waterproof fabric as early as 1800. However, untreated rubber will simply melt with heat and harden with cold. It wasn't until Charles Goodyear discovered how to stabilize the rubber in 1844 that it became practical for use as clothing. Using his process of vulcanization, Goodyear discovered that by treating rubber with sulfur at great heat, its physical properties changed and allowed the rubber to remain flexible in cold and intact in heat. The beautifully preserved rubber raincoats in the Bertrand collection were made by Goodyear in 1864 and are the only known surviving examples anywhere in the world.



**Quite possibly the most interesting artifact that we saw was this rubber rain coat. (Read previous sign) I cannot put into words how soft this was. Felt like a high quality sport coat. And it was rubber? Only four of these exist in the world and are only found here...WOW. All of these artifacts spent over a 100 years under the Missouri River mud.**



**Canisters that held mercury.**



**Shovels.**



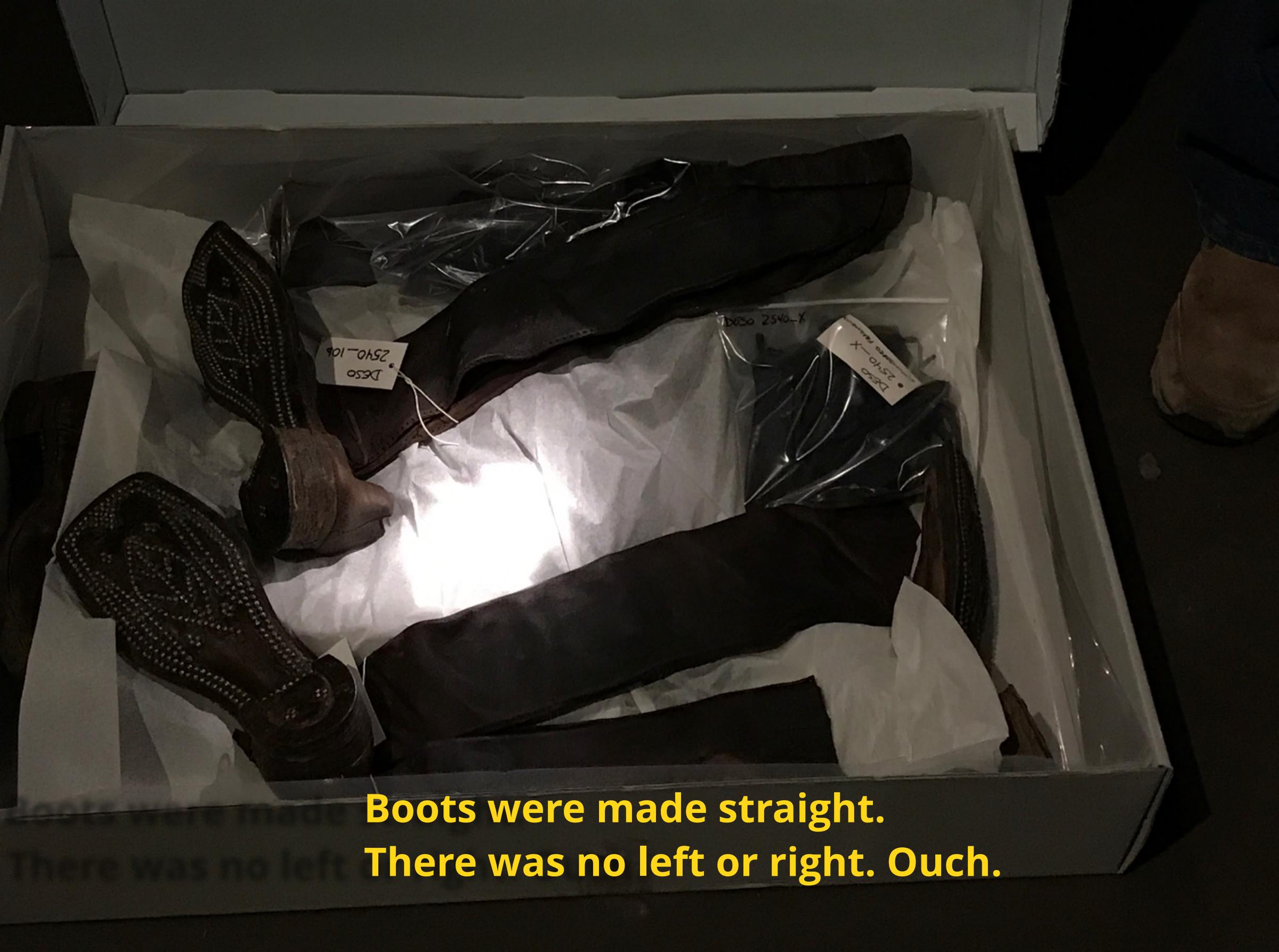
## NAILS

When the *Bertrand* left Wheeling, WV, in 1864 on her maiden voyage, she carried a cargo of 6,000 kegs of nails. Although those kegs were off-loaded at St. Louis, several hundred pounds of nails were recovered with the rest of the *Bertrand*'s cargo in 1968-1969. During the century they were buried under 30 feet of mud in the Missouri River floodplain, some of those iron nails rusted together into the shape of their containers, which eventually rotted away. **DESO 5680 (shown here with a modern keg similar to the one that originally would have held these nails)**



# Over 700 Pairs of Boots!





**Boots were made straight.  
There was no left or right. Ouch.**



**On the soles were lots of tiny rivets or beads pounded individually by the boot maker.**



**Buffalo Boots made from buffalo skins.  
Pretty deuteriated.**



**Non-military riding boot.**



**The Bertrand was a mountain boat. Notice the large white poles. They would stick them in a sand bar ,snag or shallow area of the river. Then gun the engines/paddle wheel and the boat would hop or rise over the obstruction. Always trying to get UP the river as far as possible.**



EX-120



EX-121



EX-123



EX-126



EX-121



EX-122



EX-124



EX-127



**There were 18 cabins for passengers.  
No one was lost during the sinking as  
The Captain maneuvered close to the shore.**



BERTRAND.



**Well, time to leave the Missouri,  
needless to say, it was a beautiful day.**

THANKS  
FOR  
WATCHING!

The Amazing Adventures Of

The SHILOH BOYS