

# LUKENS STEEL

## AND THE AMERICA'S CUP 1893 TO 1937

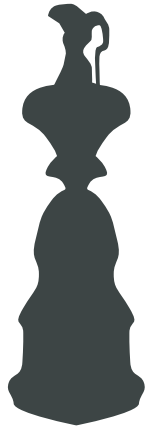


Did you know that America's Cup boats were not all wood? In fact they contain steel: Lukens Steel.

Yes, steel for 7 America's Cup boats came from Lukens Steel here in Coatesville Pennsylvania as stated by Stewart Huston in his book Rambles written in 1937.

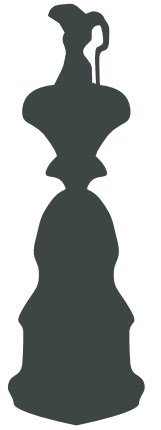
Immediately I was intrigued, since I too thought these boats were all made of wood. So off I went to Bristol Rhode Island where the America's Cup Hall of Fame is located which happens to be next to the site of Herreshoff Manufacturing. The site is where some of the early cup boats were built and is now a museum dedicated to their boat building skill — not just the America's cup. It was there that I found positive evidence that Lukens in fact provided the steel above the waterline for the America's cup boats built by [Herreshoff](#).

# AMERICA'S CUP DEFENDER BOATS THAT CONTAINED LUKENS STEEL:



1893.	Vigilant	defeated	Valkyrie II.	3-0
1895.	Defender	defeated	Valkyrie III	3-0
1899.	Columbia	defeated	Shamrock	3-0
1901.	Columbia	defeated	Shamrock II.	3-0
1903.	Reliance	defeated	Shamrock III	3-0
1920.	Resolute	defeated	Shamrock IV	3-2
1930.	Enterprise	defeated	Shamrock V	4-0
1934.	Rainbow	defeated	Endeavour.	4-2
1937.	Ranger	defeated	Endeavour II	4-0

# CUP HISTORY:



On August 22, 1851, with Queen Victoria watching, the *America* triumphed over 14 British boats in a race clockwise around the Isle of Wight finishing in 20 hours 37 minutes almost a full hour ahead of the nearest competitor. Ten boats did not finish the race. The New York Yacht Club won the Royal Yacht Squadron's 100 Guinea Cup and put it up as a perpetual challenge cup for friendly competition between nations 45 years before the modern Olympic era started in 1896. The rules state that the winner establishes the rules and hosts the next event which makes challenging for the cup difficult. Millions and now billions of dollars are spent on the winning a competition that offers no reward money.

Boats from 1851 to 1886 had hulls made of wood. Boats after 1937 had hulls made from wood then aluminum in the 1960s and 70s while modern boats have hulls that are made of carbon fiber.

The conclusion of the 32<sup>nd</sup> America's Cup resulted in Alinghi defeating Team New Zealand 5-2 in the closest cup defense in recent memory. The boats are now built of composites and are longer built of steel. Yet, this is the year of the America's Cup, which inspired us to put together an exhibit on the America's cup outlining Coatesville's connection to the top sailing prize and the oldest trophy in sports.

