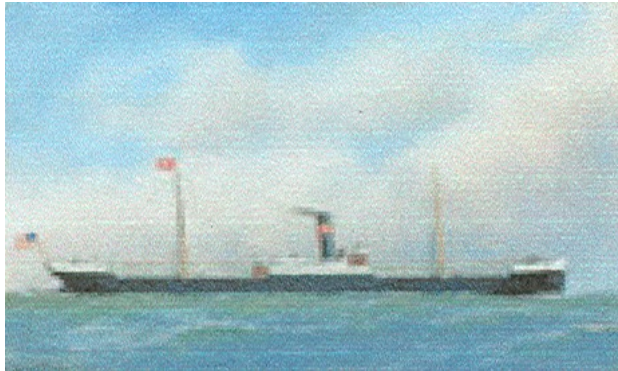
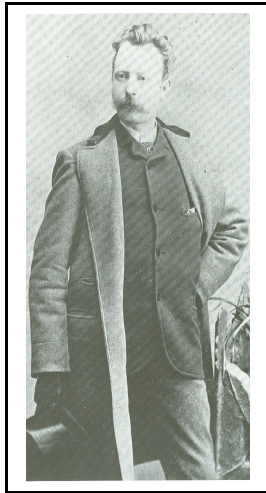


**Across Oceans, Across Time® ...**  
**Stories from the Family History & Genealogy Center ...**



**From Safe Art to Seafaring Art** -- Anyone who follows art auctions or Antiques Roadshow on television may have seen paintings of maritime vessels by a Danish immigrant with the unusual name of **Antonio Nicolo Gasparo Jacobsen**. And if you are lucky enough to own a painting by Jacobsen, known as "The Audubon of Steam Vessels," you may well be in possession of a work of art worth many thousands of dollars. Born into a family of Danish violin makers in Copenhagen in November, 1850, Jacobsen received art training at the Royal Academy of Design before emigrating to the U.S. in 1873. His first job was with the Marvin Safe Company in New York City, as a commercial safe painter, but in his free time he sat along the wharves sketching ships in the bustling major port. Gradually his talent for depicting maritime vessels was recognized and he began receiving commissions to paint vessels of all types from yachts to steamships, creating an unparalleled collection of portraits of these sea-going vessels. He is thought to have done more than 6000 paintings, such as that of the "M.S. Dollar" above, in his lifetime. In 1881 Jacobsen, now married to Massachusetts-born Mary Melania Schmidt, moved to West Hoboken, New Jersey, where he worked and lived until his death in 1921. On Sundays, Jacobsen and his friends would play chamber music or participate in other musical events. In his later years his paintings became more imaginative, and included renderings of shipwrecks, ocean views, and racing scenes. His three children, Helen, Alphonse and Carl Ferdinand, inherited Jacobsen's artistic talent and assisted their father in his later years as well as doing work of their own. Many of Jacobsen's sketchbooks survive and are owned by The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia, which has also compiled a checklist of known works. Jacobsen's paintings may be found in many museums throughout the U.S. -- not bad for a young clerk who left Denmark ostensibly to avoid registering for military service.