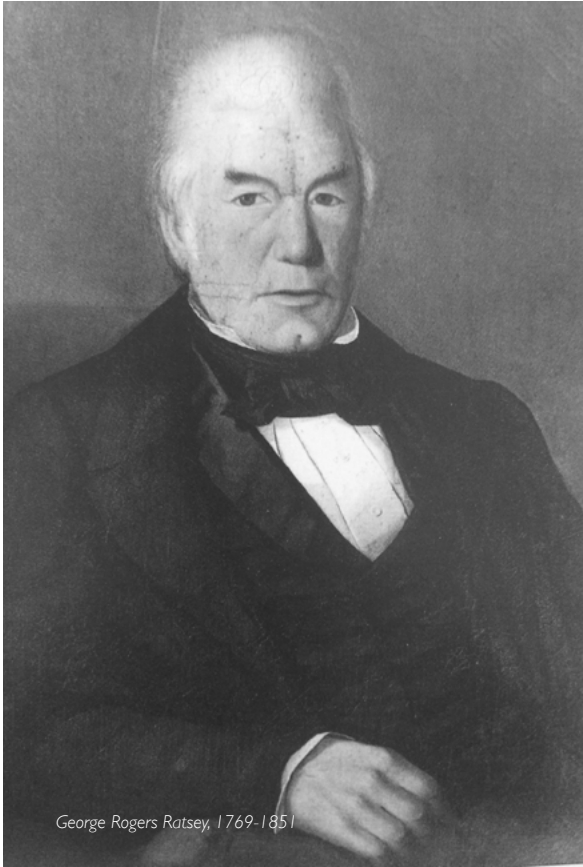




RATSEY & LAPTHORN

THE OLDEST SAILMAKER IN THE WORLD



George Rogers Ratsey, 1769-1851



With over 220 years of continuous business, Ratsey and Lapthorn are the oldest sailmakers in the world. Originally founded in Cowes in 1790 by George Rogers Ratsey, the firm merged with James Lapthorn's loft in Gosport to become Ratsey and Lapthorn. With access to the highest grade cottons coming out of Egypt and Sudan, Ratsey and Lapthorn sailmakers were able to make stronger and faster sails than anyone else.



In 1795, Lord Collingwood of the British Admiralty was a strong advocate of what he saw as the stiffer and better sails coming out of the Ratsey's loft. This led to providing some of the sails for HMS Victory that Lord Nelson used at the battle of Trafalgar in 1805; the topsail remains in the National Royal Naval Museum complete with cannon ball holes.



Ratsey and Laphorn became intimately involved with the Americas Cup, the oldest sporting trophy in the world. From George Ratsey in 1851 and through successive family generations, Ratsey and Laphorn have been supplying sails and crew for over 100 years.

A sail loft in New York was opened in 1902, driven by a desire that the American Cup team should be suited with the superior sails from Ratsey and Laphorn. Based on City Island and employing over 100 craftsmen, Ratsey and Laphorn now became the largest sailmaker in the world. A competitive yet amicable rivalry developed between the lofts in the UK and the US that resulted in a number of new ideas and inventions. Not least the creation by the New York Loft of a much larger no. 1 Jib Topsail for the Shamrock IV campaign that was referred to by the UK loft as the "Yankee".

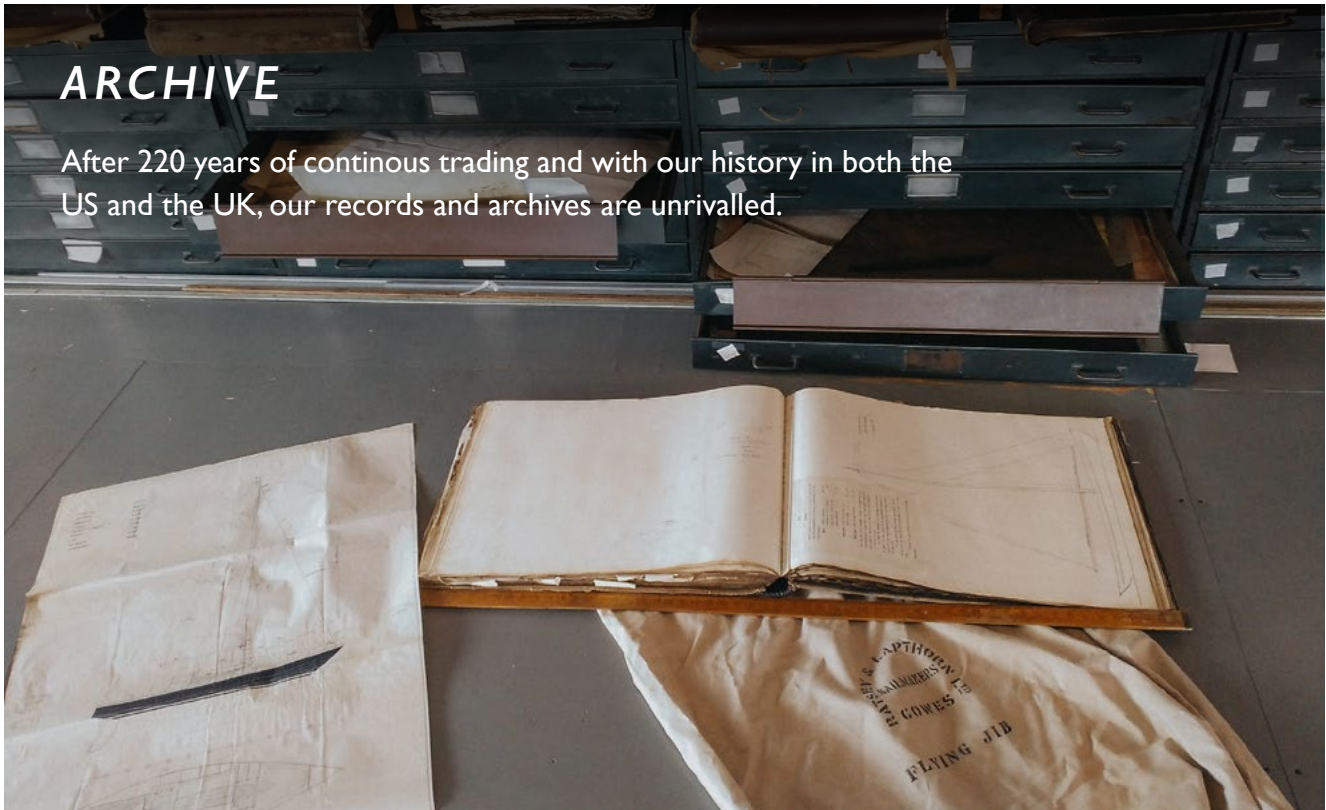
To this day, Ratsey have suited more winners of the "Auld Mug" than any other sailmaker and Tom Ratsey (1851-1935) remains the only Englishman to be inaugurated into the Americas Cup hall of fame.

THE RATSEY WAY

Ratsey and Lapthorn are synonymous with classic sailing. Our unparalleled relationship with classic boats over the years has resulted in a shared philosophy with many traditional boat owners. Using the finest materials and adhering to a set of established design principals is what we refer to as the “Ratsey Way”.

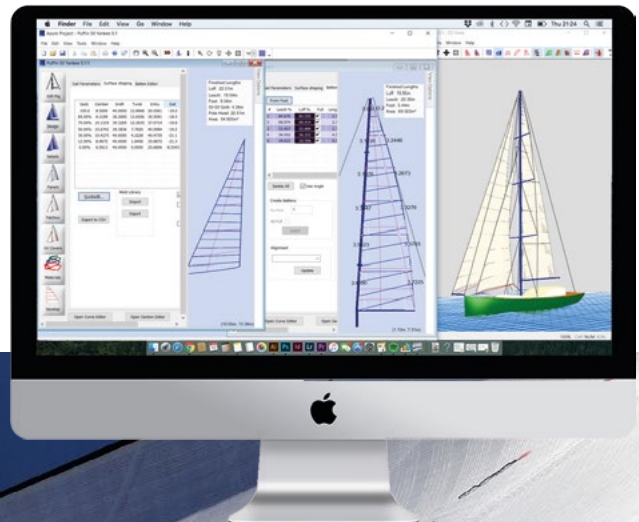
ARCHIVE

After 220 years of continuous trading and with our history in both the US and the UK, our records and archives are unrivalled.



DESIGN

Ratsey and Lapthorn offer computer aided design, laser cutting and fabrics from traditional dacron to laminates and membrane.



Swan 56 "La Belle" Race Jib#3 built in Carbon / Twaron with the latest state of the art laminate techniques.

CRAFTSMANSHIP

Ratsey and Lapthorn continue to make the finest Classic sails in the world. The traditional hand skills have continued to be passed down through apprenticeship schemes from generation to generation, thus the 'Ratsey look' and iconic logo continue to be the first choice for the classic market. Hand sewn rings, leatherwork, rat-tailed clew ropes and specific patching details etc, combine to make Ratsey the finest purveyor of authentic tradition.



CUSTOMER SERVICE

At Ratsey and Lapthorn, we believe the only way to fully understand a boat's needs is to sail on her. To make a winning sail, the relationship between owner, captain and sailmaker is essential and has always been a key ethos for Ratsey and Lapthorn. We can now extend this service philosophy to the Mediterranean with our new facilities and staff there. After delivery, Ratsey and Lapthorn are happy to assist in setting the sails to maximise their performance and offer full repair, cleaning and storage services.



RATSEY STEP FORWARD

Under new management, new investment has allowed Ratsey and Laphorn to open a new 600 sqm loft alongside its traditional loft in Cowes, UK. This has enabled Ratsey to take the traditional hand finishing skills and attention to detail and combine this with the very latest in modern sailmaking materials and design.





**“THERE IS ONLY ONE
STANDARD OF WORK IN
THIS LOFT, AND THAT IS
THE VERY BEST”**

Tom W. Ratsey 1833



For all information about our sails either email with details or telephone us directly. Or if you would prefer to make an appointment at our sail loft in Cowes we'd love to meet you in person

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