

The Atwood Log

AUTUMN 2015



**The Quarterly Newsletter of
The Chatham Historical Society**



From the Director

Yes, we are open for business! While the Atwood House Museum is not open to the public daily, with regularly scheduled hours between October and June, the museum continues to host lectures, special exhibits and private tours throughout the year. Additionally, the archives department is available during the week, by appointment.

We feature a list of planned activities in each Atwood Log and encourage you to check our website often for an updated list and more details. Be sure to provide us with your current email address so that we can send you ongoing information about our activities. If you "Like" us on Facebook and ask for notifications, you will also receive those updates.

Stay connected! Also, if you wish to spend even more time with us, we have posted a list of volunteer jobs that are available both in this publication and on our website. We provide training, flexible schedules, and a variety of activities in which you can participate, whether you can spend three hours or thirty hours a week with us.

We hope to see you At the Atwood soon and often!

Danielle Jeanloz

Another Way to Support the Atwood House Museum and the Chatham Historical Society

An easy way to donate to the Atwood House Museum/Chatham Historical Society, if you shop on Amazon.com, is to log in at smile.amazon.com. We are registered there as a 501(c)3 so all you have to do is select Chatham Historical Society as the organization you wish to support. They will then donate a small percentage of each of your purchases to the Society. We are registered there as the Chatham Historical Society since that is our legal name.

The program you register with is <https://smile.amazon.com/about>

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Cover photo: the set of bells cast by the Meneely Bell Foundry (Troy, New York), and now displayed on the grounds of the Atwood House Museum. The bells were purchased by Roy E. Tomlinson for his estate in North Chatham. The stand for the bells was repainted this fall.

Holiday Events November and December 2015

There are several events planned for the holidays this year. On November 27th and 28th, Friday and Saturday, the museum shop will be open for you to find special items for your holiday gift giving. Hours will be 1:00 to 4:00 pm on both days. The museum shop will be open for all events listed.

The annual Hearth Warming will be Saturday, December 12th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

The trains will be running during the above events and also on December 31st as part of the First Night festivities, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. First Night afternoon there will be a shuttle bus from downtown to the Atwood House during the hours we are open.



*Photos from 2014
Hearth Warming
and First Night*



Volunteer Opportunities - Seasonal and Year 'Round

The Atwood House Museum and the Chatham Historical Society offer a variety of volunteer opportunities, along with a flexible schedule. We invite you to join our enthusiastic group of dedicated volunteers, whether you can spare three hours a week or thirty. We provide training and a friendly work environment.

Areas in need of volunteers, listed alphabetically, include but are not limited to:

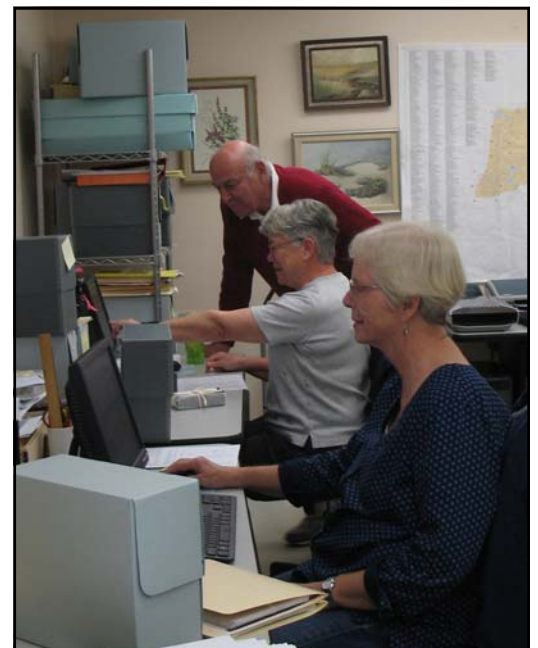
- Custodial Assistant, 2 - 10 hours per week
- Exhibit Planners, 2 - 15 hours per week
- Gift Shop Book Buyer, buying mainly winter/spring, 20 - 30 hours total, Bi-weekly restocking while shop is open
- Graphic Artist, 2 - 10 hours per week
- IT Coordinator, 2-8 hours per week
- Publicity Coordinator or assistant Coordinator, 3-20 hours per week
- Registrars, 3 - 15 hours per week
- Membership Assistants/Data Entry, 3-5 hours per week
- Museum Guides: We need at least 70 each summer and 10 throughout the year. 3 - 15 hours per week
- Writers, 4 - 10 hours per week
- Volunteer Coordinators, 3-15 hours per week

For more details about each of these positions, see www.chathamhistoricalsociety.org under the "volunteering" section.

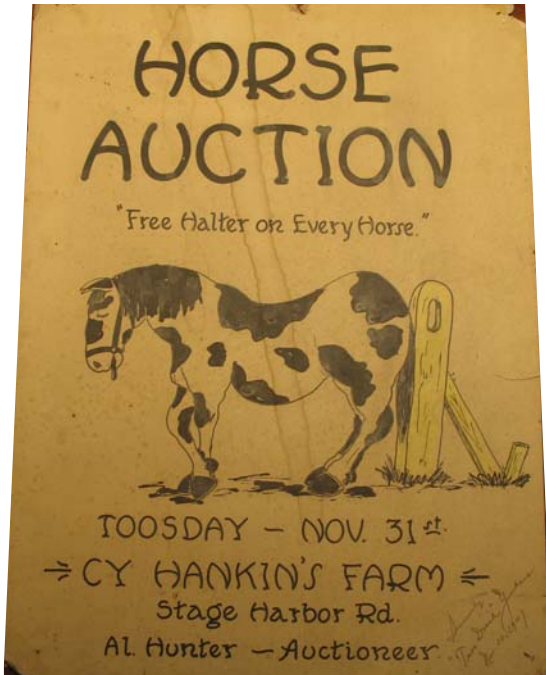
Help us bring History to Life At the Atwood.



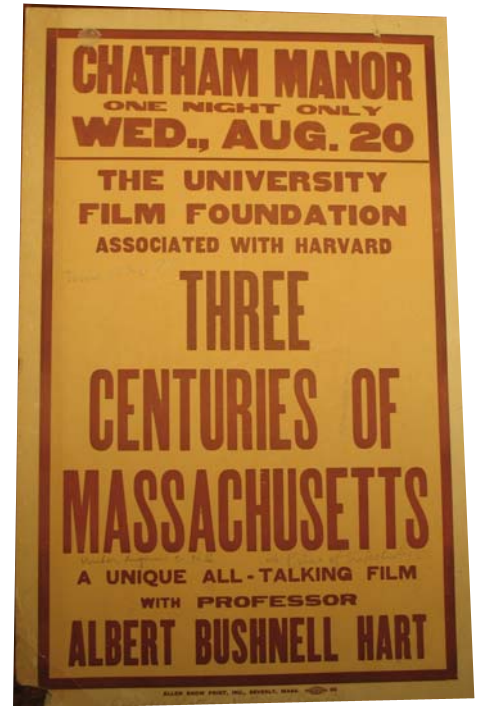
Photos of Volunteers who serve at all times of the year and in a variety of capacities



Wanted: Poster Information



Among the many paper items collected in the archives of the Chatham Historical Society are the two posters shown here. Anyone with information about either poster is requested to contact the archives department at the Society by phone or email.
508 945-2493
mgray@chathamhistorical.org



From the Costumes and Textiles Department

The Costumes & Textiles Department has completed the lengthy process of evaluating and cataloging most of the artifacts in the Society's collection. Now it is time to determine which of those items should be conserved for the historic enjoyment of Chatham residents and our summer visitors, a difficult job at best, as there are many choices. For this purpose, we contacted Museum Textile Services of Andover, MA. Arrangements were discussed, funding for the conservation reports procured and artifacts chosen.

Seven gowns, four flags and one doll were delivered to Andover for evaluation. The seven gowns were chosen for their relevance to Chatham, their period styling and their need for immediate conservation, as the deterioration occurring will no longer allow them to be put on display. The flags were donated by the Nickerson, Atkins and Mason families. The doll is a wonderfully constructed black male doll from the early to mid 1800's and donated by a West Chatham woman. It is one of the most unique artifacts in the Society's Costumes & Textiles collection.

While preparing the report, the items were kept in climate-controlled, archi-



Three piece navy blue satin gown from the 1870s

val storage. Each article was closely studied, photographs were taken and the best course of treatment determined. A detailed report with treatment options and cost estimates was prepared. The Society is fortunate to have recently gained the expert services of a volunteer grant writer, and he is currently seeking funds to alleviate the financial pressures of the project.

Our textile services consultants will perform a full assessment of the department in November. This process will include all areas of the department, from cata-

logue procedures and archival storage to clothing displays. The report will identify that which is being done in a conservation approved manner, and will address those areas where improvement is needed.

By moving in this direction, the Society can be assured that all is being done to conserve and protect the artifacts given to our keeping.

The lovely blue gown pictured is one of the items taken to Andover for evaluation. It was photographed by Museum Textiles Services and will be featured on their catalogue of display mannequins as an exceptional historic item.

Janet Marjolle

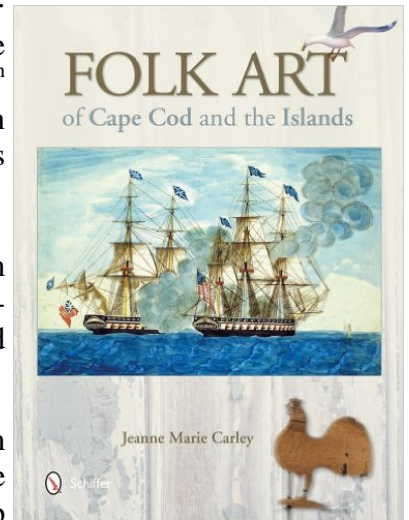
Afternoons at the Atwood Lectures

November 2015, January 2016

On NOVEMBER 8, 2015, Jeanne Marie Carley will present “*Folk Art: Painting on Cape Cod and the Islands.*” Author and genealogist Jeanne Marie Carley’s lecture will concentrate on “folk” painting of the 18th and 19th centuries. During that period, individual citizens on the Cape turned to art as an antidote to their harsh and often difficult lives. Carley will highlight paintings from that period, which have a unique simplicity and beauty.

For the past few years Chris Weidman has been operating a small sea salt farm in the Old Village with a tiny self-service roadside stand on School Street. Sunday, January 17, 2016 he will speak on “Sea Salt Farming in Chatham, Past and Present.”

Other programs under discussion for winter 2016 may be presented by Tim Wood of the Cape Cod Chronicle and Bob Zaremba of Maps of Antiquity. These will be highlighted in the next Atwood Log and will be announced on our web site when the dates and topics have been determined.



Book by Speaker Jeanne Marie Carley on folk art

Maintenance Work Ongoing at The Atwood House Museum

Maintenance work at the Atwood House Museum has been going on since the museum closed after Columbus Day Weekend. Re-shingling on the old house and on the back of the museum building was done recently and work is going on now to replace and paint windows and window frames. A new outside door was installed for the lower level, replacing the wooden door which had become a major issue last winter with the continual damp weather. The gutters above that area have also been reset and cleaned so that water from rain or melting snow and ice will not collect in that area.



The new bookcase cabinet in the library for the collection of Joseph C. Lincoln first editions has been completed and the books have been returned to their shelves. The bookcase is pictured to the right.



Gift shopping at the Atwood House Museum



Pictured are some of the shop's selection of seasonal gifts, cards, and decorative items



Pictured below: a whimsical set of bookends along with some books of interest about the shore and the natural world of Cape Cod. The shop also has an excellent selection of books for children, books about New England history, and regional art and architecture.



Mission Statement

The mission of the Chatham Historical Society is to collect, preserve, exhibit and interpret art, decorative arts, artifacts, archives, and places of historical interest relating to the history of Chatham and vicinity; and in so doing provide a record of the cultures and the people of our past and thereby inform and educate succeeding generations.

Website: www.chathamhistoricalsociety.org.

Join Us !

Chatham Historical Society members receive free admission to The Atwood House Museum, 10% off Museum Shop purchases, and a complimentary subscription to our newsletter. Our members play a vital role in helping to preserve the rich history and culture of Chatham and the surrounding region. Many members cherish volunteer opportunities at the Museum

Membership Categories

___ Captain Atwood Circle	\$1000 +
___ Heritage Society	\$ 500 - 999
___ Discoverer	\$ 250 - 499
___ Explorer	\$ 100 - 249
___ Family	\$ 50 - 99
___ Individual	\$ 25 - 49
___ Student Historian (to age 18)	\$ 10

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Method of Payment

Check

Visa

MasterCard

Credit Card # _____

Exp. date _____

Security Code _____

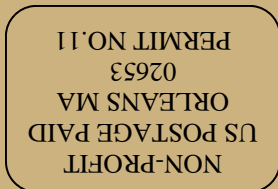
Signature _____

**Make checks payable to
The Chatham Historical Society
and mail with this form to:
The Chatham Historical Society
PO Box 709
Chatham MA 02633**

If you have allowed your membership to lapse, please consider renewal now. If you are an active member perhaps you can think of someone to pass this along to who might be interested in becoming a member.

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

347 Stage Harbor Road
PO Box 709
Chatham, MA 02633



Mark Your Calendars

Coming up at
THE ATWOOD HOUSE MUSEUM

At the Atwood -

**Unless otherwise noted, Programs are 2:00 pm
at the Atwood House Museum**

Program: November 8, 2015

Folk Art: Painting on Cape Cod and the Islands

Speaker: Jeanne Marie Carley

Program: January 17, 2016

Sea Salt Farming in Chatham, Past and Present

Speaker: Chris Weidman

Program: February 2016 To Be Announced

**Holiday Events are scheduled on November 27th and 28th,
December 12th, and December 31st. See page 3 for details**