


AUTUMN 2012

# The Atwood Log



The Quarterly Newsletter  
of  
The Chatham Historical Society





## *From the Director*

### *First Impressions*

Chatham was buzzing when I arrived at the Atwood House in mid-August. The constant line of cars and the flood of pedestrians crossing back and forth made negotiating Main Street a challenge and I quickly learned routes that avoided the busiest parts of town. The beach at the Oyster Pond just up Stage Harbor Road from the museum was full of visitors enjoying a string of beautiful days from the time I passed on my way to the Atwood House in the morning until I drove by in the evening. Shops and restaurants all were operating at full speed.

Then the week before Labor Day the pace slackened. The buzzing began to shift from human voices to the sound of the crickets in the tangle of vegetation behind the museum leading down to the Mill Pond. With families heading home for the start of the school year our visitor numbers trailed off a bit and the demographics shifted. I heard fewer feet running across the floor of the gallery over my office and fewer enthusiastic calls of "What's that?" coming from the tool room. But every day that we were open during September there were plenty of cars in the lot and the license plates indicated that our visitors came from near and far. Comments overheard in the gift shop and recorded in our guest book registered delight with the museum and the great tours our docents offered. It seemed a shame to close our doors for the season but by Columbus Day weekend the stream of visitors had slowed to a trickle.

In the weeks ahead we will open for special events like Black Friday when you can stop in for a tour of the Atwood House and take advantage of the shop for holiday gift and book purchases and for our traditional Hearth Warming celebration on December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. There are several terrific lectures coming up and, as in years past, we will host a film screening as our contribution to Chatham's 2013 First Night Celebration. Behind the scenes work will continue on our amazing collections and next year's exhibition. I'm still learning my way around, still meeting members for the first time, and still trying to get a handle on everything this wonderful organization does. And I am constantly finding new reasons to feel very lucky that I have been given the opportunity to be a part of it.

### *Departing Director's Administrative Assistant Kealyn Garner*

In early October, all at the Atwood House Museum said goodbye and best wishes to Director's Administrative Assistant Kealyn Garner. Kealyn has worked with the museum full time since last fall, planning special events such as the World War II and Civil War weekends. She also worked to keep our web site up to date and kept up with other forms of on-line presence for us. Kealyn is now at Skinner Auctioneers and Appraisers of Boston and Marlborough. We will miss her enthusiasm and energy as well as her capable handling of many and varied responsibilities.



### *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.*

## **Chatham Historical Society**

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## *Special Events: Lectures, after Thanksgiving Sale, Hearth Warming, First Night*

### *Voices: Our Village in Perspective Lecture Series*

The Chatham Historical Society/Chatham 300 Lecture Series will continue in November with a lecture by Society Archivist Mary Ann Gray, speaking on the topic: *When the Captain is the Doctor, 19th Century Medicine on Board Ships*. Mary Ann will discuss medical practice at sea throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. This program will be on Sunday, November 11, at 2:00 pm, at the Chatham Community Center.

### *Afternoons at the Atwood Lectures 2013*

The Chatham Historical Society's lecture series, Afternoon's at the Atwood returns on Sunday, January 13, 2013, with a program entitled *The Cape Cod Canal: An Engineering Marvel*. The speaker will be Samantha Gray, Cape Cod Canal interpretive park ranger with the Army Corps of Engineers. The photo of the canal on this page and on the one on the back cover are from a booklet in the society's collection entitled *A Little Visit to the Cape Cod Canal*.



On Sunday, February 10, 2103, Tom Buckley will speak on *Growing Up in Chatham in the 30's and 40's*. Tom is well known on the lower Cape among those who shop for used books.

The venue for the 2013 lecture series will be the Auditorium/Main Gallery room at the Atwood House Museum at 2:00 pm.

### *First Night Event:*

*The Atwood House Museum will present a movie on Monday, December 31 between 1 and 4 pm as part of the First Night Festivities. Check our web site or call the museum in December to find out the movie selected for this occasion. First Night buttons will provide entry to the film.*

### *Annual Hearth Warming:*

*Saturday and Sunday, December 8 and 9*

Once again the Atwood House Museum will be festooned with seasonal decorations and filled with the scents of delicious edible treats to tempt the visitor. There will be fires in the fireplaces and visitors will be welcomed to this annual Open House from 12 to 4 pm both days. Sunday the Old House will be included as a part of the Chamber's Historic Inn Tour. The museum shop will, of course, be open for your shopping pleasure, with its usual outstanding selection of gifts and books for your own enjoyment or as gifts for the special people on your list. *Come join the holiday fun at the Atwood House!*



*Decorations in the north parlor*

*Special **sale** in  
the Museum Shop  
during the  
holiday season*

*Shop open for "Black Friday"  
November 23rd and the  
Annual Hearth Warming  
December 8th and 9th*



## Looking Back at Summer 2012 Events



### Colonial Weekend: Sunday, August 18

The Sunday colonial events were enjoyed by all ages. Pigs, sheep, and goats provided a barnyard scent to the activities. The spinning and basket making were especially fascinating to many visitors. Children had the opportunity to try out writing with a quill pen as well as basic weaving. Samples from the open hearth cooking were enjoyed by guests, and talks and demonstrations about period clothing construction were quite interesting to visitors. A lecture on herbs was of particular interest. Children's games included graces, hopscotch, cat's cradle, cup ball, and hoop



#### Colonial Weekend Photos

*Left: three re-enactors in a discussion; Top left: sheep were among the four legged attractions; Top right: the medical re-enactor explains treatment to a visitor; Above: young visitors try out writing with a quill pen.*

rolling. Especially enjoyable was the strolling musician who played several different flutes or fifes. The display of early medical instruments and the explanations of their uses were of interest to others. The variety of activities provided something for everyone; the weather was great, and it was fun to be outdoors.



*Wampanoag Dancers lead visitors in a dance  
Photo courtesy of The Cape Cod Chronicle*



*Visitors learn about the various skins and furs used by the Wampanoag for clothing and other purposes*





## *Evening to Remember: Saturday, July 28*

This gala event honored author Bernard Cornwell for his contributions to our knowledge of history. The event also featured a Silent Auction with 56 items auctioned. Guests enjoyed beverages and hors d'oeuvres courtesy of Wequassett Inn and Chatham Bars Inn.



### *Evening to Remember Photos*

*Above: John King presenting certificate to Bernard Cornwell;  
Top left: guests considering Silent Auction items*



## *Seventeenth Century Weekend: Sunday, September 15*

The fourth of our *Summer of Centuries* Special Weekend Events was held on Sunday, September 15th. Featured were native American artifacts, lectures, and presentations. Lectures included discussions on Wampanoag culture and history, as well as the history and use of the mishoon. Activities included painting on deerskin, dancing and singing led by members of the Wampanoag Nation Singers and Dancers, and learning about native American artifacts such as tools and instruments.

*Seventeenth Century Weekend (this page)  
Above and left: Dancers and dancing including visitors  
Photos courtesy of The Cape Cod Chronicle*



## Some Museum Acquisitions in 2011 and 2012

The Atwood House Museum through its parent organization, the Chatham Historical Society, has been fortunate to receive some very interesting donations during the year 2012. Items accessioned this year include a kindling basket, owned by Azebah Collins Atwood (1806 – 1886), daughter of Sears Atwood, granddaughter of Joseph Atwood and Deborah Sears. This basket was a gift from Camille Atwood who summered for many years, at the Atwood Farm, on Stage Harbor Road.



*Atwood Family kindling basket*



*Porthole and hardware from the wreck of the Pendleton, gift of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Bermingham, Newtown, CT*



*This antique ice scraper was donated by Jim Spence. It fits the description of an ice scraper advertised by the American Machine Company in Philadelphia, patented in 1884*



*Girl's silk and lace dress, probably European from early 1900s with beautiful details including several lace patterns, this dress and the swimsuit on the next page are among items donated by Ginny Nickerson*



*Model of the Flying Cloud clipper ship*

This model of the clipper ship Flying Cloud was donated to the society in memory of Sven A. Vaule by the Vaule family. The Flying Cloud was considered to be the masterpiece of her designer, Donald D. McKay, foremost marine architect and shipbuilder of his time. She was launched in East Boston in 1851 and quickly acquired a reputation for her speed. Within six weeks of her launching, she sailed from New York and made San Francisco, around Cape Horn, in 89 days, 21 hours. At the time this trip commonly required an average of 200 days. Her captain on that trip was Josiah Perkins Cressy.



*Two trivets and a match holder were found at the building known as The Red Tavern, on Old Wharf Road. The donations were received from Bill and Sharon Gould*



*A very fine long handled cranberry scoop donated by Stephen Burlingame.*

For that special someone on your holiday shopping list who does not want to collect **anything more, what about a museum membership.** Membership can be purchased for a range of budgets and supports the work of the Chatham Historical Society to collect, preserve, exhibit and interpret art, decorative arts, artifacts, archives, and places of historical interest relating to the history of Chatham and vicinity. See details on the adjacent page.

## Costumes and Textiles

The Costumes and Textiles Department collects and preserves many kinds of fabric items, including clothing, linens, quilts, flags, dolls, and dolls' clothes. The department has received gifts from many sources. Two groups of recent donations are highlighted here.

This 1948 U.S. Army Officer's Dress Uniform belonged to society member David R. Oakley, and was worn on active duty from 1953 - 1955. The donation includes the jacket, jacket belt, "pink trousers", trousers belt, hat, Captain's silver shoulder bars, shoulder badge signifying 2nd Army, ribbon bar signifying Korean War Service, National Defense medal with ribbon signifying Korean War Service, rifle insignia, and two lapel insignias signifying ordinance corps.



1948 U.S. Army Officer's Dress Uniform

The department is very interested in acquiring uniforms from other branches of the services and other time periods. If anyone has a uniform that needs a new home, please consider donating it to the Atwood House Museum.

During 2011 and 2012, Costumes and Textiles has received a wonderful collection of items from Ginny Nickerson, which were worn by various members of that branch of the Nickerson family. Among these are a woman's swimming suit from the era 1915 - 1925, and a wide variety of children's garments including infants' items, blouses for small boys, and dresses for little girls and young girls. The era for the infants and children's ranges from the early 1900s to about 1920.

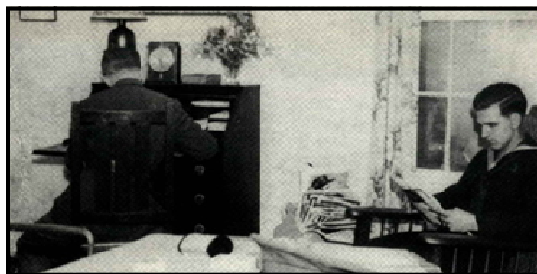


Woman's Swimsuit from era 1915 - 1925, back view and side detail

## New materials for the Archives

Late this summer, we received several boxes of materials belonging to George Crowell and Clara Crowell.

Among those papers were documents that told the story of Clara's activities during WWII. One of her most important contributions was shepherding the formation and obtaining official support for a USO chapter in Chatham. The bills, receipts, and reports to the national office are significant in that they show how much the USO meant to the servicemen and greater still the economic value the activity was to the Town of Chatham.



Service men in a room at the Wayside Inn provided from funds given to the USO  
Photo from the book *Weathering a Century of Change* by Robert D.B. Carlisle

## 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

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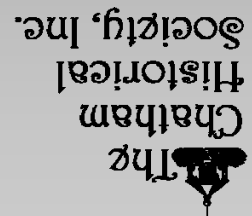
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Make checks payable to  
The Chatham Historical Society  
and mail with this form to:  
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*If you have allowed your membership to lapse, please consider renewal now. If you are an active member perhaps you can think of someone to pass this along to who might be interested in becoming a member.*

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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## Mark Your Calendars

Coming up at  
**THE ATWOOD HOUSE MUSEUM**

### Future Events - See Details Inside

#### Thanksgiving Sale

Friday, November 23, 2012 Shop Sale 11 am - 4 pm

#### Annual Hearth Warming

Saturday and Sunday, December 8 - 9, 2012 12 - 4 pm

### Lecture Series - Voices: Our Village in Perspective

Sunday, November 11, 2012

2:00 pm At The Chatham Community Center

Speaker: Mary Ann Gray - When the Captain is the Doctor,  
19th Century Medicine on Board Ships

### Afternoons at the Atwood Lecture Series

2:00 pm at the Atwood House Museum

Sunday, January 13, 2013

Speaker: Samantha Gray - The Cape Cod Canal: An Engineering Marvel

Sunday, February 10, 2013

Speaker: Tom Buckley - Growing Up in Chatham in the 30's and 40's

