

SPRING 2008

The Atwood Log

The Quarterly Newsletter of The Chatham Historical Society



Marcia Goyford Norman

ROSE

Rosa

carolina



From the President

Welcome, happy spring! As of this writing in April, it is still cold and raw and windy on Cape Cod. Yet the birds are coming back and spring bulbs are trying to push out of the ground and blossom. The flower we offer to you is on the front cover. It is one of former Chatham resident Marcia Norman's lovely watercolors given to the Society a few months ago for the museum collection. Discovered in an Eldred auction catalog, the painting is of the Carolina Rose. You may find more information about Marcia Norman elsewhere in this issue of the Log.

Much of our winter and spring has been spent following the Storage Room renovation project. It is essentially completed and beginning to fill up again. Paintings are hanging on the rolling stacks. Cartons of artifacts, books and museum shop inventory are safely stowed on wider, longer, sturdier, better lighted, and acid free metal shelves. Costumes are hanging in a pull down door closet and carefully packed in tissue in an oversized stack of drawers. We will be able to find what we are looking for much more easily. Fortunately, the room was already temperature and humidity controlled.

Our painting of Henry Beston by Frederick Wight is going visiting this year. It will be part of an exhibit by the Henry Beston Society and the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History at the museum. The exhibit is titled *A Sense of Place* and will highlight John Hay, Robert Finch and Henry Beston. Since its old frame didn't fit the canvas well, it has been reframed so as to put its best face forward.

Among the summer visitors scheduled to come to Chatham is the *Sarah*, a recently built reproduction of a catboat. Made in Hyannis at the Maritime Museum, it is ready for a friendly excursion. The *Sarah* will sail into Stage Harbor for the week of June 30 through July 6 when mariners and landlubbers will be welcome to check it out. There will be opportunities for guests to take a brief sail around the harbor. Further information will be forthcoming when available.

This is the year of the 200th anniversary of the establishment of a lighthouse on the shores of Chatham. The plan to build lighthouses along the east coast of the United States was enacted during the administration of George Washington, but it took until Thomas Jefferson's presidency to complete the construction. Sound familiar? We are assisting in a small multi-agency committee in planning a celebration to mark this anniversary, actually on October 7. The committee hopes to get residents, visitors, businesses, and other organizations interested in the project, and plans a final program on Sunday, October 5, 2008 at the Community Center. Jeremy D'Entremont, author of *The Lighthouses of Massachusetts*, *The Lighthouses of New England*, and a new title on Cape Cod lighthouses, will be the featured speaker. Watch the papers for more information.

Articles and information on our 2008 Special Exhibit, "American Antique Wicker" featuring the personal collection of Harwich and Sheffield antique dealers Kathleen and

Thomas Tetro, and on other programs and activities planned for this season are found inside these pages. We hope you will come to the museum often and bring or send your guests. The Atwood House Museum is your museum. Do enjoy and share its treasures.

Cynthia B. McCue

Catboat Model now in the Fishing Gallery

A model of the catboat "Breck Marshall", fore-runner to the Marshall Sanderling "Leucatheia", is displayed in an acrylic and wood wall case in the Society's Fishing Gallery. It was donated to the museum by Stephen W. Brown, Jr., in 2007.



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Cover painting: Carolina Rose
by Marcia Gaylord Norman

Special exhibit 2008: American Antique Wicker

The special exhibit at the Atwood House Museum this season features the wicker collection of Thomas and Kathleen Tetro, owners of Corner House Antiques in Sheffield, Massachusetts. As antique dealers for thirty-one years, they have accumulated an outstanding collection of rare and unusual examples of wicker furniture dating from the nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. Authenticated pieces made by the Wakefield Rattan Co., Heywood Bros. Co., and other early wicker manufacturers will be on view, as well as historic documents and artifacts related to the industry. A full spectrum of American wicker will be

and placed on board ship before the pilgrims stopped in London to load more passengers for the long voyage to the new world.

The wicker industry in America was begun in the early 1850s by Cyrus Wakefield, a grocer and an importer from South Reading (now Wakefield), Mass. He observed the piles of rattan on the wharves in Boston after being used to stabilize cargo brought from Asia. Taking some of the free and flexible natural material home, he tried covering a chair. Shortly thereafter, he formed a new company and was soon importing rattan on his own sailing ships. The fascinating story of



Wicker Secretary

traced from its early rudimentary forms, to intricate Victorian examples, open latticed Bar Harbor designs, flowing Art deco lines, and the rectilinear Stick Wicker style. A few unique pieces loaned by Mary Jean McLaughlin of A Summer Place in Guilford, Connecticut will add a maritime flavor to the display.

The earliest surviving examples of furniture made of wicker, a twentieth century generalized term for a variety of weaving materials including rattan, reed, rush, willow, and swamp grasses, has been found by archeologists to date to the Egyptian empire of 3000 B.C. Baskets, chairs, chests and wig boxes are among those items excavated. Circulating throughout the ancient world, wicker furniture became popular with the Romans who brought it to Britain.

The first wicker to reach America is said to be the cradle aboard the *Mayflower*, now in the Pilgrim Hall Museum in Plymouth. Because of the patterns of design, it is thought that this cradle probably was made in Holland



Settee with Sailboat Motif on loan from Mary Jean McLaughlin

expanded markets. Wicker was comfortable and cool. It could be painted. It was lightweight and easy to move, and it lasted well. Interest died down in the depression and war years but picked up again in the 1960s and has remained strong. A selection may even be found in current L.L. Bean catalogs.

The *American Antique Wicker Exhibits* runs from June 3rd through October. We encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to see this exceptional grouping of popular antiques from ages past.



Victorian Music Stand

Cyrus Wakefield and his rise to wealth and eminence will be told at the Atwood House Museum's monthly lecture on Sunday, May 18th at 2 p.m. by John Wall, president of the Wakefield Historical Society and noted expert on the development of wicker furniture in America.

Wicker furniture became very popular during the Victorian era. The invention of an

automatic loom replaced the hand weaving process and reduced costs, resulting in



Baby Carriage with Parasol for Shading Baby



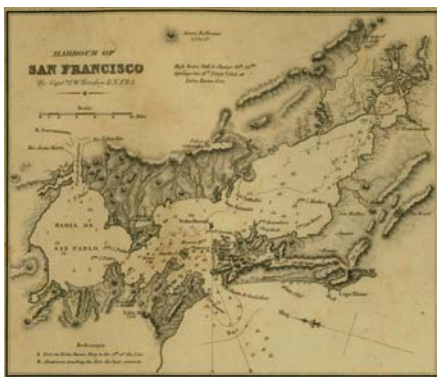
Grouping of Children's Furniture

Wendy Wade Costello Gallery

Our newest gallery is to be opened on May 24th in conjunction with Preservation Month. The gallery was made possible by a generous gift in honor of Wendy who was an active supporter of the Chatham Historical Society, serving as Secretary of the Board of Trustees from 2003 to 2007 and as a volunteer in the archive department.

As part of the development of this gallery, the substantial collection of maritime charts owned by the Society has been inventoried, researched, photographed, and placed in a setting designed to preserve that for the future. During the year, a rotating exhibit will provide an opportunity for visitors to the museum to view one of the charts used by the Sea Captains from Chatham to navigate the seven seas. Charts not on exhibit may be viewed using the museum's data base.

The gallery, located outside the Archival Storage Area in the lower level of the building, will be open Tuesday and Thursday from 10 am to 3 pm all year long and at other times by appointment.



Insert Map of San Francisco, part of a larger map of the California Coast

The membership is invited to attend the opening reception on May 24th from 1 to 6 pm and to take the opportunity to visit the Archival Center to see the area where the general archives of the Society are stored. At the same time the public is invited to browse the historical collection of the Chatham Marconi Maritime Center. This collection is being housed temporarily at the Historical Society until their building is renovated.

Appraisal Day is June 7

Have you ever wondered about that funny looking device that your father found so intriguing? Or whether that beautiful pitcher is really Sandwich glass? Or does that old chair or garden ornament have any value? Here is your chance to find out while also helping the Chatham Historical Society! Bring your articles to the Atwood House Museum on Appraisal Day, Saturday, June 7th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Keith Klinger, reputable antique dealer and appraiser, will be present to provide information and appraisals on your items as he has done numerous times in the past. No doubt he will provoke lots of smiles while dispensing fascinating tidbits about antiques. Klinger has been in the antique and auctioneering business for thirty years. Klinger & Co. is located in Harwich.

Donations of \$5.00 per item are requested and there is no limit on the number of items per person. Customers will be taken in order of arrival.

Plan now to come to the Atwood House Museum, bring your treasures and stories to share with other antique aficionados, and leave with knowledge you did not have before. As is the policy whenever events are held at the museum, the museum shop will be open, restocked with many wonderful new items for the new season. In the vernacular, it's a win-win situation!

Programs for Children in a Seaside Village

This May, students in Chatham's third grades will study the life of sea captains using a new program created by Chatham Historical Society Operating Board member in charge of education, Richard Curcio, in collaboration with the elementary school teachers. Entitled Chatham Sea Captains: Their Life and Times, Curcio's teachers' manual contains lesson plans with activities appropriate for middle school and high school classes as well.

The third graders plan to visit the museum to view the maritime galleries and sea captains portraits before choosing a related project to develop and complete in their classrooms. Museum volunteers are needed to help lead three groups the morning of May 22nd. Please call the museum at 508-945-2493 or speak to Betsey Stevens, chairman of volunteers.

In another example of museum and school collaboration, the manual was printed at the print shop of the Cape Cod Technical High School and photographs used were taken during a visit to the museum by graphic arts students from the school.

In our fourth summer season of Children's Monday at the Museum, several sessions will focus on life in a seaside community. Age appropriate programs will include topics covering a sea captain's life, lighthouses, boats, and sailor's valentines. Additional themes being planned are early cooking, toys and games, and weaving. Each session will include a related project to craft and take home.

Two sessions will be offered eight Mondays beginning July 7th:

- 9:00 to 10:30, ages 6 through 9
- 11:00 to 12:30, ages 10 through 12.

Registration will be necessary as group size will be limited. There will be a charge of \$7.00 per morning for members and \$10 per morning for non-members. Please note there are some changes from last year's schedule. More information will be available after this early April writing.

If you wish to be on a mailing list for the brochure about these children's programs, please contact Margaret Martin at the Chatham Historical Society (508-945-2493) between 9am and 1 pm week days or by email at chathamhistoricalsociety@verizon.net. The brochure will be available in May.



Shell Class, July 2007



Amanita muscaria,
a type of mushroom



Hepatica



Round Leaved Sundew

The Botanicals by Marcia Norman

A few months ago, the Society was fortunate to be gifted with sixty-four original unframed watercolors and drawings of wild flowers and mushrooms by Marcia Gaylord Norman (1915-1985). Many of the new acquisitions show penciled notes on exact location and date of discovery of the flowers, sea grasses, herbs, and fungi. Her work was created as illustrations for many books about wetlands and coastal plant life in and around Chatham and other parts of New England. Mrs. Norman resided on Stage Harbor Road with her husband Edward Norman in the house known as the Levi Atwood House. The property borders Oyster Pond and the house is currently under renovation by a new owner.

Norman was born in Holyoke, Mass, attended Abbot Academy in Andover, Mass, and concentrated on the study of sculpture during three years at the Museum School of Fine Arts in Boston. A course on structural art taken at Smith College led her to study botany and ultimately to portray plants in exquisitely detailed and beautiful paintings. Her reputation became international in scope. Her works were exhibited in Europe and Africa as well as throughout the United States.

The artist was also known for her devotion to the causes of conservation and protection of the environment. She was a founding member of the Chatham Conservation Commission, serving the town in that capacity for 22 years, researching by-laws and mapping the water table, among other projects. She was particularly interested in protecting wetlands.

The Chatham Historical Society also owns watercolors by Marcia Norman depicting plants in a beach setting. Copies of books with her illustrations may be found in the Society's library. Although many titles may be out of print, some are listed for sale at sites on the internet.

Mrs. Norman collaborated with her husband on illustrating a number of publications. Edward (Ted) Norman was an artist in his own right and a generous benefactor of the Society. His ceramic ducks are in the collection of the Atwood House Museum.



Purple Fringed Orchis



Meadow Sweet and Hardhack,
two varieties of *Spiraea*



Wineberry



Three varieties of fungi: Peziza, Russula Emetica, and Cantherellus Cinnabarinus



Cypripedium, commonly called Lady Slipper

The Possible “Chatham-Hawaiian” Connection

Just when cataloging and storing documents in our collection begins to get a little tedious something always happens to pique my interest and I find myself searching for other relevant documents.

Recently, as I was cataloging material from the Young Family Papers, I came across a typed manuscript entitled “The Patriotic Youngs” written in 1912 during the 200th celebration of the Town of Chatham. I was familiar with the story of Hiat Young and his son Joseph who both fought in the Revolutionary War and of the monument in People’s Cemetery erected in their honor; but I had somehow missed a statement included in this paper. That was, “...Joseph Young, Esq. a Revolutionary Veteran and Queen Emma’s ancestor”. The idea that a former resident of Chatham was related to Queen Emma of Hawaii caught my attention, especially since I had toured her palace and observed the quilt she and her ladies had made as she served her imprisonment in the palace. I also visited her summer home outside of Honolulu this past February. In preparation for my visit, I had read her autobiography. So all in all, further investigation of Joseph Young’s connection to Emma provided an incentive to find out if this was indeed true.



Queen Emma - Did she have a Cape Cod ancestor?

The author of the paper went on to say that Joseph Young was born on Sept. 25, 1752 in Liverpool, Nova Scotia. Joseph’s father, Hiat for whom his son was named, was purported to be the uncle of John Young of Truro MA, whose granddaughter became Queen Emma Young Kemsnameha. The evidence for this connection was a letter written in 1779, stating that a boatsman of the ship “*Elinor*” was left at Hawaii. That

seaman, purported to be John Young, married the King’s daughter, Kanacha. His grand-daughter, by marrying King Kamchamed IV, became Queen Emma Fannie Kamchaned. (The spellings of Hawaiian names are as found in the various documents referenced.)

Also in the collection was a typed statement written by Dorothy Willis in 1980-81 who did research at the Hawaiian Historical Society in Honolulu. The statement says that there was such a seaman who landed in the Hawaiian Islands. But there are conflicting reports as to his birthplace. One record lists him as being born in Wellfleet, MA in 1759 and as such was born as David and later changed his name to John. He was married to a niece of Kamenameha, not his daughter, and had four children, one of whom was the mother of Queen Emma. The second record shows that John Young was English and from Liverpool. However, that statement was made during the years when Wellfleet was part of the British colonies.



Queen Emma’s Summer Palace

A third source of information is the 22nd annual report of the Hawaiian Historical Society, a photocopy of which is in the collection. It was published in 1914 and contains the papers read at the annual meeting that year. A copy of one of those articles is entitled “John Young of Hawaii, An American” written by Bishop Henry B. Restarick. The Bishop recalled an interview with a Mrs. Henry H. Cole who claimed that John Young’s sister was her great-grandmother. Mrs. Cole stated that in the early part of the 18th century, a family named Young lived in Wellfleet.



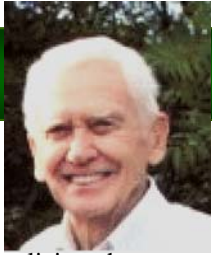
Sketch of John Young, from the web site of the National Park Service, Honolulu. Was he the John Young from Cape Cod

Jonathan Young (1720-1799) married Rebecca Harding (1725-1819) and they had a daughter named Abigail Young (b 1750) and a son, David, later called John (b. 1759 d. 1835 in Hawaii). The family records state that David (John) married Kaonaehi (Kaoanaeha) and had four children. They were Jane, Fannie Kekelo, Grace and John Young Jr. Emma Kaleleonalani, daughter of Fannie was born January 1831 and died April 25, 1885. Adopted by Doctor Rooke, an Englishman, Emma married Alexander Liholiho (King Kamehameha IV) in June 1856; hence, she is known as Queen Emma.

How did John/David get to Hawaii? Family records say that he sailed as the boatswain of the ship *Eleanor*, and that while on shore in the Islands he was detained and would have been killed but for the daughter of Kamehameha, who saved his life and whom he afterwards married. He then became the friend and trusted advisor of the King. It is a fact that a John Young was appointed Governor of Hawaii in 1796. As to the accuracy of the claim that John Young of Wellfleet is the John Young who was the grandfather of Queen Emma, the article mentions that most of the Hawaiian records indicate that John was an Englishman and therefore could not have been born in Wellfleet.

I guess I probably will never know the answer to my questions. Was Chatham’s Hiat Young related to the Wellfleet John Young and if he was, was the Wellfleet John Young grandfather to Queen Emma? In any case, the search for the answers was fun.

Mary Ann Gray, Volunteer Archivist



From the Chairman

Realizing that a structure that is more than 250 years old may very likely need some restoration, the Strategic Planning Committee of the Executive Board began in 2007 to seek a professional assessment of the condition of the 1752 Joseph Atwood House, the original building from which our present museum has grown, and which is still the star of our collection. From the historic preservation experts at Historic New England (formerly the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities) we received the names of several preservation consultants, most of whom have worked on notable historic houses in our area (The House of the Seven Gables, for one). After talking with most of those recommended, we engaged Brian Pfeiffer's Preservation Advisory Services of Cambridge, MA.

Beginning with a preliminary inspection of the Old House in October, 2007, Mr. Pfeiffer and his chief preservation carpenter, Michael Burrey, carefully examined the structural condition of the entire building, with special attention to the roof, foundations, flooring supports, and windows over a period of several months. They now have presented us with a detailed proposal of extensive restoration work that should be accomplished over the next few years. The Strategic Planning Committee and the Executive Board now must consider when the work will be done and how it will be funded.

For nearly a year the Governance and Nominating Committee of the Executive Board has been studying the need for and the feasibility of hiring an full time Executive Director. Now that members of both the Operating Board and the Executive Board have agreed that we may need such a person in the near future to help direct the operations of the Society and its Museum, the Committee is continuing to explore our options. We will keep you informed of future developments.

More immediate assistance, however, is needed for improving our public relations so that we will have greater success in making the public more aware of the value and importance of both the Society and the Museum. To this end we are making increased efforts to find a volunteer with experience in marketing and public relations to head up a committee that will make such efforts more successful. If there are any of our members who would be interested in this position, we urge them to make their availability known by calling (508-945-2493) or emailing the museum at (chathamhistoricalsociety@verizon.net).

In the meantime, our dedicated volunteers have been hard at work during the last several months planning and improving the exhibits in the museum and organizing the many activities of the Society so that we will be ready for an exciting season in 2008. Details of this activity are presented elsewhere in this issue of the *Atwood Log*.

Finally, I wish to thank our members for their interest and support, both of which continue to expand with each passing year.

- Spencer Grey

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.

Shop Talk

One of the goals of a museum shop is for the products to reflect the scope of the museum. Some of the most obvious categories are nautical, lighthouses, and household items. We are introducing several new products to compliment these areas.

Chatham Sea Captains in the Age of Sail will be a featured new title. Joseph A. Nickerson and Geraldine D. Nickerson authored this newly published book of the sea. Featuring 25 captains from the 18th to 20th centuries, the book explores deep sea fishing, shipping from the Cape to the Far East, and trade along the eastern coastline. These captains not only had extraordinary navigational skills, but often were at sea in magnificent vessels. Challenged by pirates and raiders from the Confederacy, these captains skillfully pursued their goals - an exciting and informative read.

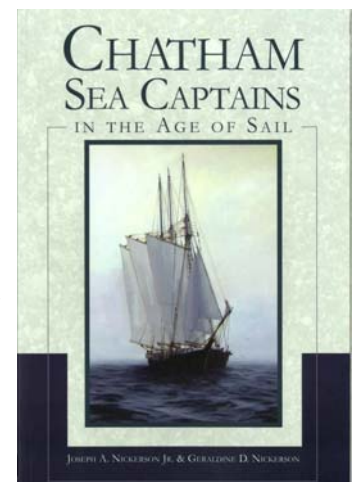
Found in the corner cupboard of the old kitchen are matching bowls. These pieces are original to the Atwood House and family. Susan Dimm Williams, owner of Barn Hill Pottery, is making replicas of these pieces to be sold in the shop. The off white color and arched pattern will fit in with casual place settings - a wonderful reminder of the Old House and a perfect gift for Chatham friends!

American Antique Wicker is the special exhibit for the 2008 season. The shop will be featuring books, notecards, and woven items to reflect this anticipated exhibit.

Lighthouse items have been added to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Chatham Light. These include two different replicas. One is authentic in its detail, even capable of light. The second item is a beautiful kaleidoscope encased in the likeness of the lighthouse.

As we busily anticipate our 2008 season, we look forward to sharing the gift shop with all of you!

- Barbara Newberry



New book now available by Joseph A. Nickerson and Geraldine D. Nickerson

347 Stage Harbor Road
PO Box 381
Chatham, MA 02633

On the Web: www.chathamhistoricalsociety.org

Mark Your Calendars

Coming up at The Chatham Historical
Society & Atwood House Museum

Afternoons at the Atwood Lecture Series — Lecture Series

All lectures take place at 2 pm at The Atwood House Museum, 347 Stage Harbor Road

Sunday May 18, 2008

John Wall: American Antique Wicker



*Wicker rocker on loan from
Mary Jean McLaughlin*

OTHER EVENTS

Saturday May 10, 2008, 1 to 4 pm: Open House during
Preservation House Tour

Saturday May 24, 2008, 1 to 4 pm: Archives Open House

Tuesday June 3, 2008, 1 to 4 pm: Museum opens for the season

Saturday June 7, 2008, 10 am to 1 pm: Appraisal Day at the
Atwood House Museum, \$5 per item

Saturday June 14, 2008, 10 am to 4 pm: Gala Open House for
2008 season

The Museum Shop is open whenever the museum is open