

SUMMER 2011

The Atwood Log



The Quarterly Newsletter
of
The Chatham Historical Society



From the Director/Curator

Civil War Weekend

The Civil War Weekend at the Atwood House is being planned to celebrate the 150th, or sesquicentennial, of the American Civil War. We are hoping to attract Chatham residents of all ages as we celebrate and honor the role of Chatham residents in the war as well. It is estimated that around 260 men from Chatham served in the Union army and navy. One such person was Francis B. Rogers of Chatham, who was the grandfather of Tyler Atwood. He chronicled his service in the Union army-the following passages are excerpted from this diary:

"Enlisted in the service of my country August 30th 1862; went to Boston September 1st...was examined in Boylston Hall and found worthy...received orders to report on Boston Common...we then said goody bye to our friends [and] went on board steamer *Merrimac*...Received our guns, equipments [and] ammunition preparatory to duty...heavy firing was heard in the distance for several days - received orders not to leave camp be ready to march at any moment...marched 12 miles through mud and water and went into camp near Pollockville - did not meet the rebs...Sunday the 14th heard heavy firing ahead, the enemy was retreating and falling back on Kingston and there the fun began, our regiment...were ordered to advance...the battle lasted 3 hours and 500 prisoners were taken and some wounded on both sides...the rebs sent in a flag of truce to give them a chance to get their women and children out of the town but when we arrived there, the women and children were there but the men [had] gone! We took possession of the town and the boys visited the stores...being Sunday night the keepers of the stores were out but the boys went in just the same and took such goods as they wanted regardless of price...the boys renewed their stock of tobacco...we find our camp sprinkled over with beds, pillows white spreads and chairs and household goods generally...the boys had tried to get one good nights rest if possible. Continuing our March towards Goldsborough - met the enemy on the banks of the Neuse at Whitehall...they began to drop their shells in among us very carelessly-one of our company was killed...still moving the advance guard have quite smart skirmishing on the right...were obliged to turn back as the rebs had destroyed the bridge and not proceed to Goldsborough as was intended. Marched 20 miles; camped. 96th regiment stack arms and refuse duty until they are paid off...have not been paid for 6 months all quiet in our camp. All forces in and about Newbern were ordered to be inspected by General Foster, there was a little sprinkling of ladies. February 26th - were detailed to help build



Painting of the Battle of Fort Fisher

scaffolding for the purpose of taking a photograph picture of our camp. An expedition passed our camp this a.m. consisting of the 175th, 168th, 171st Pennsylvania, 158th and 132nd New York, 3rd Massachusetts infantry and two batteries, 1 regiment of cavalry, 16 ambulances, 80 baggage wagons, 20 heads of cattle and 160 mounted infantry. March 14th - rumored that 500 rebs were march-

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Civil War Weekend Cont.

ing on Batchelder's creek and had driven in the pickets, ordered to fall in... marched out about 4 miles and ordered back [as] gun boats are shelling wood at the same time on the Trent River... Three of the 17th wounded by the bursting of [a] shell while practicing-one of the three has his leg amputated... everything has been quiet for several days - flags are hoisted at half-mast throughout the camp for Colonel Jones, 58th Pennsylvania, who was killed while out skirmishing in the woods. His body has been embalmed and put on board steamer *Albany* for New York... a rebel spy was brought in by the pickets-some valuable papers were found on him. June 12th -[we] were called out by order of our colonel [who] said... our time of service will expire July 20th and wished us to be quiet and attend to our duties and he would do all that he could to get us home sooner - he wanted [us] to go home as a regiment if it were possible. Received orders to take transport convoy for Boston - invalids from 51st, 46th and 8th joined us - about 250 in all... one hundred were sick on cots. Passed Cape Hatteras in the morn detailed to care for sick comrade Charles E. Parker [who] passed away with typhoid fever... prepared a box and packed the body in ice [to be] brought to Boston... passed Chatham July 9th at 4 pm... arrived in Boston 7 am July 10th... discharged July 29th 1863. -Francis B. Rogers

The Atwood House Museum will be proudly hosting an encampment of *The 9th Massachusetts Battery, Light Artillery, Army of the Potomac Incorporated* for the Civil War weekend. Educational outreach will include topics such as Civil War medicine and surgical procedures, women's roles during the war, and anecdotal commentary on life in the Union army. There will also be a demonstration of period muskets/weapons and a presentation on the proper steps to prep, load, and fire a piece of field artillery-zoning restrictions prevent us from actually firing the cannon. Music will be provided by celebrated banjo player and educator Rick Spencer, who will give multiple performances of and commentary on a selection of antebellum and Civil War music. Director and Curator Mark Wilkins will give a lecture on August 6th and 7th at 2 pm each day on the *Monitor* and the *Merri-mac*-the first two ironclad warships introduced during the Civil War. Food and drink will be available from the Chatham Squire, as well as candy, popcorn, and peanuts.

Tickets for The Civil War Weekend will be on sale at the gate and in advance -\$6 for adults, \$3 for students, children 7 and under are free. Admission to the museum is included in your ticket. Contact Margaret Martin at 508-945-2493, or email mmartin@chathamhistorical.org to reserve your tickets.



Musician Richard Spencer playing his banjo



Painting of the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee



Three photos above show events by Civil War re-enactment groups

Looking Back at the 2011 Colonial Camp

A very successful four day Colonial Camp was held at the Atwood House Museum from June 27th through June 30th. Archivist Mary Ann Gray organized the event around activities that would have been a part of life in colonial Chatham. Mary Ann was ably assisted by Lisa Carter, Stephanie Hamilton, and Janet Marjollet. Available participants walked in the Fourth of July Parade be-

hind a truck carrying a model of the Atwood House. Among the activities shown here are yarn dying, apron and mob cap sewing, drum construction and completed drums and boat models.

Those walking in the parade also handed out brochures announcing the sixth year of Monday Morning Programs for Children at the Atwood House Museum - more about that on the facing page.



Monday Mornings at the Museum 2011

The sixth annual Monday Mornings at the Museum kicked off on July 11 with a three part program about sharks. This program has been exceptionally well attended. The program is from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon for eight weeks, ending on August 29. Following the three shark classes there will be two sessions about the cranberry - its history and cultivation; the final three classes will be about Japanese- American relations in the 19th century and will particularly highlight the life of Neeshima Shimeta, who stowed away on an American ship captained by a Chatam sea captain.



Indoor and outdoor activities thus far have included creating shark masks, shark totems, learning about endangered species of sharks, singing a song to Mark - the Shark, and playing a game of Sharks and Prey

Chatham Historical Society is Getting Ready for Chatham 300

As most of you should know by now – Chatham is celebrating its 300th birthday in 2012. The entire town is gearing up to celebrate this milestone in many delightful and creative ways throughout the year, and members, volunteers, and staff of the Atwood House Museum are already working on specific plans to support and contribute to this town celebration.

The celebration will begin March 8 – 10, 2012 with a beautiful series of events and opportunities for town residents to get in a celebratory mood. This weekend, dubbed *The Celebration Begins*, will be coordinated by the Chatham Merchants and the Chatham Chamber of Commerce. It will feature a period dinner dance at the Chatham Bars Inn among other fun events to awaken the town from our winter slumber.

The celebration continues with *Founders Weekend*, June 8 – 11, 2012. This weekend will commemorate and celebrate Chatham's history and is co-sponsored by the Nickerson Family Association and the Chatham Historical Society. Specific plans include a gathering of the Cape and Islands Native American community to commemorate a special historical plaque honoring Chatham's Native American heritage, interpretive exhibits at each of Chatham's museums including the Chatham Marconi Maritime Museum, Chatham Railroad Museum, Caleb Nickerson House, the Mayo House, the new Godfrey Windmill, and the Atwood House Museum. There will be local historically oriented presentations from the Coast Guard and the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge as well.

In June the Atwood House Museum will be opening its 2012 exhibit commemorating World War II experiences in Chatham as well as sponsoring various events around Chatham including an historical fun-run for all ages to explore Chatham's historical loca-

tions in a unique and healthy manner. Mary Ann Gray is collaborating with others to produce a living timeline of Chatham's history to be displayed locally in one of our parks or on the grounds of the museum for all to experience. Other museum events throughout the year also will include a retrospective exhibit of Chatham artists, in partnership with other community organizations. Furthermore, a group of Chatham authors are collaborating under the sponsorship of the Chatham Historical Society and our own Spencer Grey to produce a new book of Chatham history, told through the lives of Chatham residents. It promises to be a timely and important addition to the celebration and of

course will be available for members at the Museum Shop once it is published.

The celebration continues during the summer with a special *July 4th Parade* that will array all parade participants in chronological order through Chatham's history. Labor Day Weekend is *Celebration of the Arts* in Chatham, co-sponsored by the Creative Arts Center and other local arts organizations. Various artist groups will engage the community and a lovely piano concert by Chatham resident, Jacqueline Schwab is among the featured events for this weekend.

Next up is *Homecoming Weekend*, October 19 – 21, 2012, which will celebrate Chatham's Maritime heritage and provide a beautiful back drop for "all souls" who love Chatham "to return to the nest" and celebrate with old friends and family during, hopefully, beautiful warm fall weather. The

celebration concludes with *First Night – Chatham 300* which promises to end the year long birthday party in style. For more information check out www.chatham300.org.



Spencer Grey on the Chatham 300 float during the July 4, 2011 parade. Photo courtesy of Mary Beth Daniel

2011 Annual Meeting of Members

The Annual Meeting of Members, originally scheduled for Sunday, August 14, is being rescheduled for a date in September. A notice for the new date and business to come before the meeting will be sent out to members at least ten days prior to the date of the meeting.

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.

September Quilt Exhibit

The Atwood House Museum and the Chatham Historical Society are proud to be the recipients of 29 historic quilts dating from 1833 to 1916. Included in the collection is the bicentennial quilt created by Chatham residents in 1976. These quilts, several of which are signed and dated, document the interpersonal relationships of long time Chatham residents. The signatures inked on



Silk Quilt with Log Cabin Pattern

these quilts by several men are of noteworthy mention. The Costumes and Textiles Department has cataloged these quilts and contact was made with MassQuilts in March of 2011 to further document them for historic preservation.

A few of the quilts have a documented history, but many of the makers are unknown. Two of the most notable quilts come from the Atwood Family and include an 1830 quilt made by Miss Margery Smith who married John At-

wood in 1833 and an 1848 quilt pieced by friends and relatives of Mehitabel Atwood who married Benjamin Boylston of Pembroke. Sentiments and epigrams are written on this quilt.

Approximately 12 quilts will be on display in the Atwood House Museum from September 6 through October 1, 2011. Several examples of Pattern or "Friendship" quilts as well as the silk quilts known as "Crazy Quilts", popularly used as parlor throws during the Victorian age, will be represented. A "Red Work" quilt featuring the bark "Xenia", a Mariner's Star cradle quilt, an unfinished quilt and doll quilts will round out the display. The Costume and Textile Department is also interested in acquiring additional quilts for the collection. Quilts of historical significance created by Chatham residents between the mid 1800's and early 1900's are being sought as well as quilts passed down through the families of current residents. You may contact Janet Marjollet, Costumes and Textiles Department Chair at the Chatham Historical Society, 508-945-2493 for further information.



Friendship quilt dated 1848

"Evening to Remember" 2011

With the weather cooperating, cooling slightly from the very warm and humid atmosphere of the previous two days, about 200 guests attended the 2011 "Evening to Remember" to honor the memory of Robert V. Clem. Beverage service was provided by Chatham Bars Inn; the Wequassett Resort and Golf Club provided a delicious array of hors d'oeuvres. Thirty-four items contributed by members of the Historical Society and by several Chatham businesses were available in a Silent Auction. Eugene Doggett, a cousin of



*Committee planning
"2011 Evening to Remember"*

Robert Clem, accepted the posthumous "Bringing History to Life" award honoring Mr. Clem. The committee members planning the event were: RoseMarie McLoughlin, Chair; Stephanie Bartlett, Susan Collins, Peggy Crespo, Phyllis Freeman, Ginny Nickerson, Pat Sachtleban, and Debbie Swenson. Additional assistance was provided by Margaret Martin, Dwight Myer and Wayne Jostrand.

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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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.

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Mark Your Calendars

Coming up at The Chatham Historical
Society & Atwood House Museum

August Events

Saturday and Sunday, August 6th and 7th Civil War Weekend
10 am -5 pm, admission fee \$6 adults

Saturday, August 13, Morning Yard Sale

Sunday, August 14, Lecture at 2 pm at The Atwood House Museum
Speaker: Robert Alison - "*Cape Cod: 400 Years in Thirty Minutes*"

Wednesday, August 17 Movie Night
Showing "*Glory*", 7 pm

Afternoons at the Atwood Lecture Series
Lectures for Fall 2011
2 pm at The Atwood House Museum

Sunday, October 16
Speaker: Paul Mangelinkx - "*The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882*"

Sunday, November 13
Speaker: Robert Prescott - "*Robert Clem Paintings*"

Quilt Show from the Collection of the Atwood House Museum
September 6 - October 1, 2011

