

WINTER 2012

The Atwood Log

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chatham300.org

The Quarterly Newsletter
of
The Chatham Historical Society



From the Chairman

Dear Friends,

On *First Night* a few weeks ago, in the wee hours during a spectacular fireworks display over Oyster Pond, the long anticipated arrival of Chatham's Tercentennial year - 2012 finally became a reality. Three hundred years is a long time and we should all feel fortunate and proud to be alive and caring about Chatham during this special time.

Most of you are aware that the planning for the Celebration has been ably led by the 300 Celebration Steering Committee, who have done terrific work organizing and inspiring our community to plan events and spread the word to all who know and love Chatham. Consistent with this theme, The Atwood House Museum has some wonderful plans with particular focus on the summer & fall seasons. I hope you will get familiar with our detailed calendar of events, lectures, workshops, classes and exhibit openings by visiting our web site at chathamhistoricalsociety.org frequently. For those of you in Chatham this winter and spring there are some noteworthy events for you as well so take a look.

As you can see from the cover of this Log issue we are taking our opportunity to welcome in the official 300 day celebration commencing with the *Celebration Begins* – Opening Weekend (March 9 – 11). We will tease you slightly with early looks at our own program titled *Summer of Centuries* which will feature a new exhibit, living history weekends, a new expanded lecture series, a new book publication titled: *Three Centuries in a Cape Cod Village: The Story of Chatham*, and much more. The Atwood House Museum will open for the season on June 8th, just in time for *Founder's Weekend* (June 8 – 11). Weekend long activities will include a celebration of Chatham's history through the centuries with various events at many of the town museums and historic sites and will culminate with a detailed celebration program on Monday, June 11th, our official Founders Day. Please mark your calendars now because you do not want to miss this weekend if you can help it.

As stewards of Chatham's heritage and the memories of our past, the staff and volunteers at the Atwood House Museum feel privileged to be active and alive during this once in a lifetime Celebration. On a personal note - I do have a distant memory of our 250th Anniversary in 1962 as many of you might (hint: I was too young to grow a beard) but I guarantee you that one year from now you all will have lifetime memories and stories of Chatham's 300th that will be the stuff of songs for future generations. Get excited! I am! For more detailed information on the entire 300 Celebration calendar of events and for your opportunity to tell your own story of how you "Found your way here" to Chatham, please go to the Chatham 300 website chatham300.org.

Finally, please don't forget to renew your museum membership. We count on this revenue to get the museum ready.
With best wishes!

John J. King II



This photo and the cover photos are from the 1912 Celebration of Chatham's Bicentennial Anniversary

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Special Events

Monday, February 13th from 2:00 - 4:00 pm, Atwood House Museum Valentine's Tea Join us for a unique way to celebrate Valentine's Day this year! The Atwood House Museum will be hosting a tea on Monday, February 13th from 2:00-4:00 pm. Join us for a fun afternoon viewing beautiful crafts such as sailor's valentines, Nantucket baskets, and dollhouse miniatures. Sample tea, cookies, and cider and socialize before watching a fascinating demonstration of chocolate painting! Please wear something red to add to our festive atmosphere! Admission \$10, \$8 for members.



Saturday, March 10th, 1pm - 4 pm, Atwood House Museum - Joseph C. Lincoln Celebration and Open House at the Atwood House Museum

The Atwood House Museum and shop will be open to visitors, free of admission, for self-guided or docent led tours. The AHM will also be celebrating in honor of popular Cape Cod author Joseph C. Lincoln on March 10th. Drop by the museum and see original manuscripts, photos and the famous 'prolific pencil' that Lincoln used to write with! For more detailed information, please see our website at www.chathamhistoricalsociety.org

Joseph Lincoln, Cape Cod's most famous author, was born in Brewster in 1870. He was the son, grandson, and great-grandson of sea-captains. His father died before Joseph was a year old, and he grew up in a household filled with women - his mother, grandmother, and aunt. This may account for the many feisty and independent females in his novels. In 1883, his mother moved to Chelsea, a suburb of Boston to improve his educational opportunities; summers were spent with family back on the Cape.

After trying various jobs, Lincoln decided to pursue his real ambition - to become an artist. He took some art courses and began selling sketches in 1896, often accompanied by humorous verse, to a popular bicycling publication, "*The League of American Wheelmen Bulletin and Good Roads*". There he quickly became a staff illustrator, and then associate editor. In 1897 his mother died, he married Florence Sargent, and they moved to New York City to be close to the center of the publishing world. His work was soon being published in several magazines and newspapers while he worked a day job for a banking magazine. His first of 36 novels was published in 1904, the beginning of a very successful career. He also co-authored three novels with his son. Several of his books were also made into movies, especially during the silent film era. His lasting appeal was his wonderful sense of humor coupled with a lively tale.

Biographical material provided by Priscilla Dalrymple



Joseph C. Lincoln



Wednesday, April 25th from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Atwood House Museum - Antiques Appraisal Day with Eldred's Auction Gallery.

Bring in your antique treasures to see how much they're worth! Bob Eldred, owner of Eldred's Auction gallery of Dennis, will be offering discounted appraisal services for Chatham residents. Discounted pricing is as follows: one object for \$5.00 or three objects for \$10.00. Maximum of three objects per person. Please make an appointment by emailing info@chathamhistorical.org or by calling 508-945-2493. Walk-ins are welcome but will be helped after those with appointments are served.



How much are your treasures worth?
...find out at the Atwood House Museum

Lecture Series for Chatham 300

Voices: A Village in Perspective



Eighteenth Century Wedding in New England

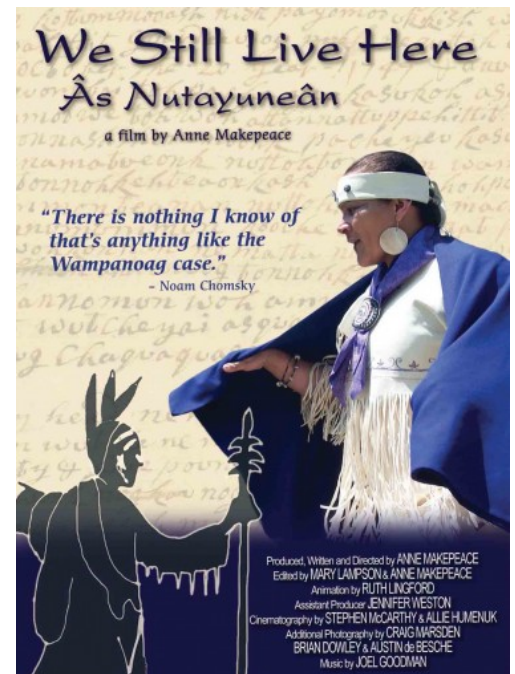
In cooperation with the Chatham 300 Committee, the Atwood House Museum Lecture Series has moved to the Chatham Community Center, and the Lecture Series is now titled *Voices: A Village in Perspective*. Most of the programs are on a Sunday afternoon at 2:00 pm in the large meeting room of the Center. However, the March lecture will begin at 1:00 pm. Additional details about each program are on this page. *Admission to each lecture is free; however, donations are welcome.*

Sunday, February 12th, 2:00 pm, Chatham Community Center-Voices Lecture Series: A Most Contemptible Passion: Marriage and Divorce in 18th century New England- Judy Reed discusses the memoirs of her three times great grandmother, Abigail Abbot Bailey. The lecture will discuss the dramatic life of Bailey, including her trials as an abused spouse, raising 15 children, surviving small pox, and completing a two hundred mile horseback journey over treacherous terrain to recover her children.



Sunday, April 15th, 2:00 pm, Chatham Community Center – Voices Lecture Series: Wild Chatham, Celebrating more than 3000 years, A Photographic Journey - Chatham is blessed by its unique location on the elbow of Cape Cod surrounded by water and encompassing pristine barrier beaches both from the Cape Cod National Seashore and Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge areas. This special part of New England has been a yearly destination and stop over for migrating birds and marine mammals for millennia. Most visitors to Chatham are only

vaguely aware of this diversity of wildlife that visits Chatham on these yearly migrations. Join Atwood House Museum Director, John King, to review some of the natural history of the region highlighted by a collection of photographic images that illustrate the wild landscapes and wild creatures found in some of Chatham's little traveled places today.



Sunday, March 11th, 1:00 pm, Chatham Community Center – Voices Lecture Series: "We Still Live Here"- A sharing of the film "We Still Live Here," about the revitalization of the Wampanoag language followed by a brief talk and discussion led by Linda Coombs, past director of the Wampanoag Indigenous Program at Plimoth Plantation. Coombs is a member of the Aquinnah Wampanoag tribe on Martha's Vineyard. This lecture is co-sponsored by the Chatham Historical Society and the Chatham Wampanoag Committee.

New Spring Classes Offered at the Museum

Wednesday, March 14th 6:00-7:30, Atwood House Museum- Seminar: The History of Your Home-

Archivist Mary Ann Gray will teach participants to utilize the materials available in the Chatham Historical Society's archival collection to investigate the history of their home.

Participants will research utilizing hard copy and online materials such as Town Survey reports and the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds. Attention will be given to additional records that may be helpful such as the old tax assessor records, old maps of Chatham, and genealogical references etc. Advanced registration requested. Please reserve your space by emailing info@chathamhistorical.org.



*Sandy Moran, Instructor for
Sailor's Valentine Workshop*

Sailor's Valentine Workshop

In this two day class students will learn how to lay out a design, sort shells, build their collage and set it into a sturdy octagonal case. When finished, the student's work will have an estimated value of around \$2,000. All materials will be provided including a handmade mahogany case, a variety of quality shells, tools, glues, design and individual instruction from Sandy Moran. **Cost= \$800, deposit required with reservation. Class held Monday and Wednesday May 21st and 23rd from 9:30 - 3:30 at the Atwood House Museum.**



Tuesday, April 17th and 24th from 7 pm to 8:30 pm, Atwood House Museum- Seminar: Preserving your family papers-

This class is designed as an introduction to the steps required in developing a family history. Archivist Mary Ann Gray will teach methods of sorting, arranging, and preservation of the paper/manuscript portion of the items collected to develop a family history. Participants will be given basic preservation material to be used in starting this process. The fee to cover the cost of materials is \$40 for non-members of Chatham historical Society and \$35 for members. For more information please visit our website at www.chathamhistoricalsociety.org/Events_Programs.



Nantucket Basket Workshop

This workshop gives beginners the opportunity to make their own classic 6" round basket from scratch. Held over three days, the course will start with tapering and placing the staves to the baskets, continue on with weaving, and finally end with rimming and lashing for a finished look.

Each student will leave with a completed basket (one with a handle attached). Instructor Kyle James utilizes the finest supplies for the baskets including cherry wood for the base and handles and ivory washers.

Cost= \$365.00 Class held Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, May 9th, 11th, and 12th- 9:30-3:30, at the Atwood House Museum.



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.

Reservations and information for all of the above offerings may be found on the website: chathamhistoricalsociety.org, by calling the Society at 508-945-2493, or by emailing info@chathamhistorical.org

Tercentennial Book

A History of Chatham

Under the sponsorship of the Chatham Historical Society a new history of Chatham is in the final stages of publication for this 300th anniversary year. Below we have printed the Table of Contents and the Preface to the book, thereby providing you with information on this book's organization and purpose. We hope to have copies available for purchase by April. Also printed here is the front cover of the book, showing a sketch of Chatham titled *Northwestern View of Chatham, Massachusetts*, from an 1839 book by John Warner Barber, *History and Antiquities of Every Town in Massachusetts*, printed in 1839 by Dorr, Holland and Company. This book will be a wonderful addition to your library of local history, and a special souvenir for this anniversary year. It will also make an excellent gift for any of your friends and family who hold a special place in their hearts for Cape Cod in general, and Chatham in particular.

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1656 - 1712

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Dana Eldridge

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Mary Ann Gray

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Revolution, Recovery and Rehabilitation

Lynne C. Van Dine

Chapter 4

1812 - 1862:

New Ventures at Home and Abroad

Spencer Grey

Chapter 5

1862 - 1912:

A Quiet Backwater Begins to Stir

Debra Lawless

Chapter 6

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World Wars Transform Chatham

Tim Weller

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Eric Hartell

THREE CENTURIES IN A CAPE COD VILLAGE

The Story of Chatham



Chatham Historical Society
Chatham, Massachusetts
2012

Preface

On this occasion of the Town of Chatham's 300th anniversary we are pleased to offer the first complete look at the town's fascinating 300-year history from the earliest days of pioneer William Nickerson, through the great days of sea captains, right up to the present day.

Several writers have tackled the town's history before now. William Smith, a founding member of the Chatham Historical Society, used early deeds and documents to publish his *History of Chatham* between 1909 and 1917. Yet Smith's work, while providing detailed and accurate information, essentially ends with 1816. Recent writers have turned their gazes to events of the 20th century. When planning began in 2008 for Chatham's 300th anniversary celebration, it was evident that an essential element of this occasion should be a new history, covering Chatham's entire past.

The obvious organization to sponsor such an endeavor is the Chatham Historical Society, founded in 1923. Therefore a group of potential writers gathered under its aegis to plan a new history.

The people involved in the discussions changed through the months until the group consisted of Dana Eldridge, Mary Ann Gray, Eric Hartell, Debra Lawless, Lynn Van Dine, Tim Weller, and Spencer Grey. Among us are several journalists, a memoirist, a high school English teacher, and an archivist. While we each bring a unique point of view to the table, what we share is a love of Chatham's history. Unwittingly we agreed on a plan that closely parallels that suggested by the late writer and Chatham historian Robert D.B. Carlisle in June 2008. He recommended that "the Chatham Historical Society... publish an illustrated book of essays and articles dealing with the town, its heritage, its life and its times."

In *Three Centuries in a Cape Cod Village* each of the seven contributors has painted vivid portraits of people whose lives most effectively evoke the essence of the roughly fifty-year period he or she has covered. We have relied on whatever historic records are available, many of which are found in the archives of the Atwood House Museum. We are indebted to committee member Tim Weller of Professional Writers & Editors for his fine editing of this book.

These selections, and the illustrations that accompany them, bring to life the people and their times over the course of 300 years in a special, yet typical, Cape Cod village. We hope you will enjoy our book.

CHATHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY - TRAVEL SURVEY

"Where in the World do you want to go?"

You may remember the excitement last year when the Chatham Historical Society hosted a travel night at the Atwood House to promote a China River Cruise in 2011. The trip was a tremendous success and, as a fundraiser, important support for the Society. Because we are hoping to offer another trip in the near future, your views will help us and be vital to its success. **Please indicate your preferences below and reply before March 1st** by phone (508-945-2493), mail (P.O. Box 703, Chatham 02633), or email (mmartin@chathamhistoricalsociety.org).

(1) Travel type: ☐ Cruises ☐ Land ☐ Riverboats

(2) Length: ☐ 1 week ☐ 2 weeks ☐ longer

(3) Tours/places of interest : Russian Volga River Cruise (Yes/No);

Elbe River Cruise from Berlin to Prague (Yes/No);

Costa Rica (Yes/No);

Machu Picchu and the Galapagos (Yes/No);

Vietnam (Yes/No);

other

(4) Names of Cruise lines/Riverboats or Tour Companies I (we) have travelled with in the past:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____

If you prefer not to sign your survey we will still be interested in your comments; however, your name will allow us to contact you as we continue our planning for a trip that we hope will be of interest to you.



Sixth Grade Project created for the 2011 Neesima Japan Challenge. Additional projects were created by the fifth grade students. A reception was held for the students on January 25th at which certificates were given to the students.

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Captain Atwood Circle	\$1000 +
<input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Society	\$ 500 - 999
<input type="checkbox"/> Discoverer	\$ 250 - 499
<input type="checkbox"/> Explorer	\$ 100 - 249
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$ 50 - 99
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 25 - 49
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Historian (to age 18)	\$ 10

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The Chatham Historical Society
and mail with this form to:
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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

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Mark Your Calendars

Coming up at
THE ATWOOD HOUSE MUSEUM

Future Events - See Details Inside

Monday, February 13, 2012 "Valentine's Tea"

Saturday, March 10, 2012 Joseph C. Lincoln Celebration and Open House
Tercentennial Opening Weekend

Wednesday, April 25, 2012 Antiques Appraisal Day

Lecture Series - Voices: A Village in Perspective At The Chatham Community Center

Sunday, February 12, 2012, 2:00 pm

Speaker: Judy Reed - *A Most Contemptible Passion:
Marriage and Divorce in 18th Century New England*

Sunday, March 13, 2012, 1:00pm

Speaker: Film and Discussion led by Linda Coombs -
We Still Live Here

Sunday, April 15, 2012, 2:00 pm

Speaker: John King - *Wild Chatham, Celebrating more than 3000 years, A Photographic Journey*

Look on Page Five inside for classes being offered in March, April, and May, 2012

