



ATWOOD LOG

FALL/WINTER 2022/2023



THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE CHATHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY



From the Executive Director

Greetings,

How do you plan to celebrate 100 years as a Historical Society? Considering the magnitude of this wonderful achievement, it is a tall order. We pride ourselves on creating interesting and visually stunning exhibits, and 2023 will be no exception as we have big plans and big aspirations. As the saying goes . . . “Go Big or Go Home,” and I

am not ready to go home quite yet. So let the fun begin!

As we prepare for our centennial celebration, I thought I would share a sneak peek at an exciting year ahead. My small but mighty team are making grand plans for two new exhibits worthy of a hundred year celebration. Thank you Caroline and Kristina for keeping the Atwood’s ship on course.

When we open the doors for the summer season in May, we will debut our new Multimedia Room/Education Center. Also debuting in 2023 will be a documentary produced by the Chatham Historical Society on the life of Alice Stallknecht.

Make plans to experience a Wampanoag cultural event at the Atwood as we celebrate History Weekend, part of the Historic Chatham’s June celebration.

Sign up your kids or grandkids for our *Adventures in History Summer Camp* scheduled for July and August of 2023. . . More details to come on that. Music at the Atwood is returning for a second year, so don’t miss out on all the great performances during our summer concert series. Not to be outdone, our annual benefit gala “An Evening to Remember,” once again returns to the grounds of the museum. Next year’s gala promises to be bigger and better as we celebrate our Centennial in style.

Let us not forget that we still have a lot going on at the Atwood this Fall/Winter including our very popular Halloween at the Batwood. Few things bring as much joy as watching 200 children dressed in costumes Trick or Treating during our annual Halloween parade through the museum. Truly Spooktacular!!

The fall would not be complete without our annual “Historic Bake Sale.” We are excited to bring back the tastiest fundraiser of the year, just in time to make your Thanksgiving end on a sweet note. The museum will be closed to the public during November and December, however, the gift shop will be open for your holiday shopping needs during December. We wrap up 2022 with our signature Hearthwarming event on December 10th. Join us for our traditional holiday celebration, as the hearth will be glowing in the Old Atwood House, and holiday treats will be flowing in the decked out Mural Barn.

Kevin Wright
Executive Director

Chatham's hidden tourist spots take guests back in time

By Tim Weller

You've heard it before, no doubt: Long-time locals complaining about modern-day Chatham.

The McMansions.

The Money.

The Wash-a-shores.

They wish they could turn back the clock.

Did you know there are real "turn back the clock" spots in Chatham?

And one of them is right off Main Street!

From the Rotary, head west on Main Street for about 1.5 miles. Just past Pate's, -- Mac's Seafood is on your left -- start slowing,

Look to your right and read the signs: Pilgrim Village Cottages. Pine Shore Cottages. Eider Duck Cottages.

These aren't the only cottages in Chatham, of course. There is Chatham Seaside Cottages on Ridgeville Road; Pleasant Forest Shores and Ocean-front Holiday Shores in South Chatham; and Chatham Beach Cottages on Little Beach Road.

Many of these remind old-timers what Chatham was like in the 1950s and 1960s. Rustic. Rural. Simple. Secluded.

The Atwood House Museum, home of the Chatham Historical Society at 347 Stage Harbor Road, contains additional information about many of these cottages in its archives.

Pilgrim Village

Peter Swenson has owned Pilgrim's Village since 1975. He remembers his father Edward stayed there in the mid-1940s. "He told me it was very rustic," Swenson says. "It cost \$1 or \$1.50 a night, one or two bedrooms, no appliances, no bathrooms, a bare lightbulb hanging from a chain in each room." The attraction? The price attracted tourists who could not -- or would not -- afford Chatham's more upscale inns, motels, and hotels.

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And White Pond, behind the village, was a huge draw. "The fishing was fabulous," Swenson says. "And in those days, people cooked a lot of fish. There weren't many restaurants in town, so people would stay here and fish for their meals."

Dennis Jordan's family once owned now forgotten Jordan's Village, just off John Gilpin Lane. He remembers seeing family members who were pilots fly seaplanes in and out of White Pond. "Don't try that today," he says. "You'll never get over the trees that have grown up now."

Tourism has changed -- again

But like everything, times have changed.

"The dynamics of tourism have changed dramatically," Swenson says. "Back when we started, two-week rentals were normal. We were fully booked from mid-June to mid-September."

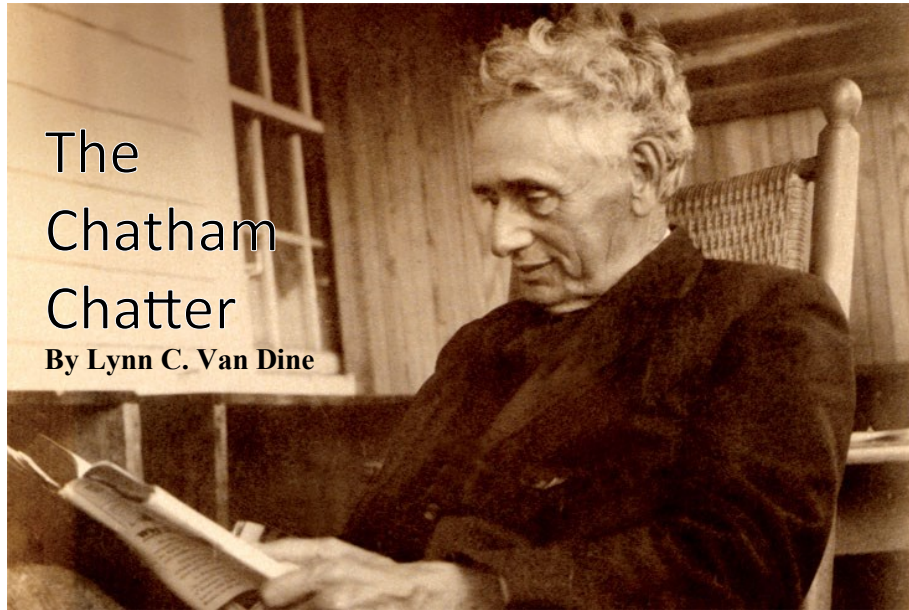
No longer. A week is normal, and many want to rent for just a few days, which Swenson does not allow.

"We do well, but we're not jam packed," Swenson says. "We're fully booked for only a few weeks now. People just aren't interested in longer stays. They also want amenities -- like pools and entertainment options -- that we don't provide."

"But we're still here, still available, for people looking for this kind of getaway."

Tim Weller is a former member of the Chatham Historical Society's board of trustees. The Atwood Museum, home of the historical society at 347 Stage Harbor Road, is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays until the end of September.





Supreme Court, Justice Louis Brandeis

When not presiding at our nation's Supreme Court, Justice Louis Brandeis (1856-1941) summered with his family in Chatham. While relaxing on the shore of Oyster Pond (the home is now on the National Register), his grandchildren kept busy writing, publishing and delivering their own newspaper, the *Chatham Chatter*.

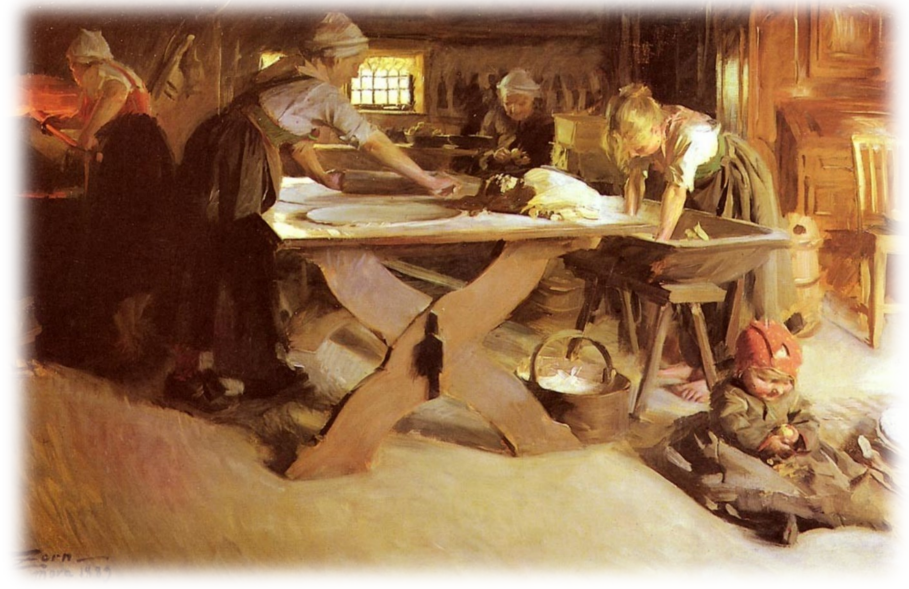
The children called themselves the Milkweed Publishing Company and included Louis Brandeis Gilbert (age 10 in 1937), Alice Brandeis Gilbert (age 9), Walter Brandeis Raushenbush (age 9), and Frank Brandeis Gilbert (age 6). *Chatham Chatter* issues were published about every two weeks during the summers from 1937 through 1941 and a final issue in August 1942.

Typewritten and duplicated on a hectograph machine, the *Chatter* reported on local government, politics, gossip and yacht-racing results. The July Fourth parade was covered, as was a fisherman lost at sea, a murder, interviews with high-profile residents and visitors, social and cultural events.

But the publication was not limited to Chatham news. The *Chatter* also featured national and international stories, including politics, Hitler's advances, Mussolini, and Japan's war with China.

And the *Chatham Chatter* garnered national attention when Alice (known as Alice Popkin) wrote a homage to Amelia Earhart after the pilot disappeared when flying over the Pacific Ocean. She was quoted in the *New York Times* in an article on the publication with the headline "Brandeis Kinsman A Publisher at 11." The headline was incorrect: Louis Brandeis

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"American Cookery" – A Book and Recipe Report

By Caroline Imparato,
Assistant Director of the Atwood Museum

While opening up the museum the other day, I stopped to rearrange some of the books in our gift shop. I have always loved the collection of books that are available on our shelves. Many contain information on the history of Chatham, Cape Cod, New England, fashion, photography, wildlife, botany, and much more. We also have a section of cookbooks and studies of food history. As an avid baker, this is the section I find myself perusing the most.

While replacing a book about making heirloom toys back on its shelf, I noticed a smaller book, not more than 70 pages, called, *American Cookery*. I picked it up out of curiosity and am so glad I did! Let me share a little bit of what I learned...

American Cookery, also contains the subtitle: "Or, the Art of Dressing Viands, Fish, Poultry and Vegetables and the Best Modes of Making Puff-Pastes, Pies, Tarts, Puddings, Custards and Preserves, and All Kinds of

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CAKES, from the Imperial PLUMB to plain CAKE. Adapted to this Country, and All Grades of Life. By Amelia Simmons, An American Orphan. A Facsimile of the Second Edition. Printed in Albany in 1796.” Now that’s a long title! I’m glad Amelia shortened it down to *American Cookery*, aren’t you? This particular edition that we sell in our shop has an introduction by Karen Hess from 1996, in honor of the book’s 200th anniversary. Hess’ introduction provides a wonderful history and explanation of this cornerstone of American cuisine.

To start, Hess explains how there were plenty of cookbooks out there for the colonial New England cook to read and follow, but most of them came from England or Holland. Amelia Simmons’ book was the first cookbook written by and for Americans. She took all the Old World recipes that people were following and changed them to better suit the modern New World cook. Hence the, “Adapted to this Country and All Grades of Life.” Included in the book were recipes made with ingredients new to the colonial settlers, although not new to the indigenous peoples. Items like squash, sweet potato, gooseberries, various beans, etc. Instead of adapting to the ways the native people cooked these foods, the settlers would take the ingredients and find ways to modify them to their handed down recipes.

What is also remarkable about this little cookbook is that fact that it was written by a woman and published under her own name of Amelia Simmons, rather than A. Simmons or a man’s name. It was produced by a publishing company, and enjoyed great success, despite the general social rules of the 18th century. The book went on to have multiple successful editions published.

I could go on about the history and significance of this book, about the interesting woman who wrote it, and about who she really wanted to write this book for (this is something I challenge you to find out about, hint: it has to do with her being an orphan), but instead I will highlight a recipe I think I’m going to try to make and sell at our **Best Bake Sale in History... which will be held yet again in our Mural Barn, here at the museum, on Tuesday, November 22...just in time for Thanksgiving! Please continue to check our website and social media for more details about the time and our pre-order options.** Now, enough with the shameless plugs! Onward to Amelia’s recipe for Gingerbread...keep in mind this recipe was written in 1796...

Soft Gingerbread Baked In Pans:

Rub two pounds of sugar, one pound of butter, into four pounds of flour, add 8 eggs, one ounce ginger, 1 pint milk, 4 spoons rose water, bake 15 minutes.

Isn’t that short and sweet?

Fun Facts:

Reynard and Gildersleeve

By Lynn C. Van Dine

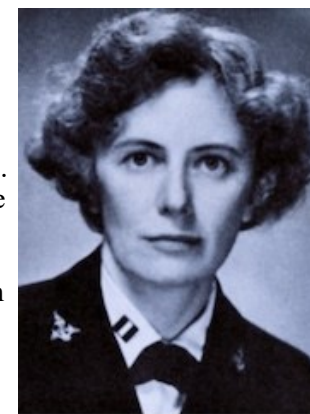
Chatham was the longtime summer home for an early 20th century power couple, **Virginia C. Gildersleeve** and **Elizabeth Reynard**. Gildersleeve was the long-time dean of Barnard College, co-founder of the International Federation of University Women, and the only woman delegated by United States to the April 1945 San Francisco United Nations Conference on International Organization, which founded the United Nations. Reynard was an English professor at Barnard and was pivotal in starting the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) the first American all-female organization of its kind. She was also the first woman to be ap-

Virginia C. Gildersleeve

pointed lieutenant in the United States Navy Reserve. Reynard was the author of the seminal work on Cape Cod folklore, *The Narrow Land*, and *The Mutinous Wind*. She built a home on what she named Moonpenney Lane (for the money she made writing novels and stories after dark). After Reynard’s death in 1967, Gildersleeve made



Gildersleeve painting by Chatham artist Harold Brett.



Elizabeth Reynard

a substantial gift to Chatham’s high school (now Chatham Middle School) for the development of a library, which was named for the Elizabeth Reynard. Gildersleeve also gifted the Chatham Historical Society with the copyright and sales proceeds of *The Narrow Land*.



Police Sgt. William Glover examines the grenade with the museum's Director of Costumes and Textiles, Janet Marjollet.

Fun Facts: Grenade

By Lynn C. Van Dine



Among the thousands of artifacts in the Chatham Historical Society's collection, Atwood House staff once unearthed an explosive find: a World War I hand grenade. Police were alerted when the unexploded grenade was discovered while assembling an exhibit on "Chatham and the Military" in 2017. Once it was deemed safe by Chatham Police Sgt. William Glover, the artifact was included in the exhibit. The grenade was a gift

to the museum from resident Alice Guild, a columnist for the *Chatham Monitor* in the 1920s.

Brandeis (Continued from page 5)

was just 10. The *Chatter* thanked the *NYT* and said, "since then, the editors have received many letters from people who wish to subscribe for the paper," according to an article in the *Cape Cod Chronicle*.

Single issues cost one cent in the *Chatter's* first year, with a price increase to three cents in 1941. A summer subscription was 20 cents with 40 cents for issues sent elsewhere.

Originals of the Chatham Chatter are housed in the archives at the Atwood Museum. They may be viewed on the website of the Eldredge Library.

TripAdvisor Reviews

The best advertising for a small museum like ours is through word of mouth. One of the most popular referral systems currently is TripAdvisor. Reviews on this free worldwide travel site attract visitors, future donors, and supporters. We hope that you will consider reviewing us online. This can be accomplished by creating an account on TripAdvisor or using Facebook to log in. Why does TripAdvisor require an account? To make sure that reviews come from legitimate people.

To review us see: www.tripadvisor.com/reviewit

Recent feedback:

Nice Surprise

“What a pleasant surprise! Visited because of reviews, but you never know. Not your typical dusty museum, but in addition to the house that had a very interesting docent, lots of memorabilia from the past including nautical and Chatham history. Wonderful art exhibit too. Allow at least two hours. Plus, the volunteers are all lovely and helpful”

August 4, 2022

Wonderful

“Today visit this museum in Chatham. I find it a wonderful place, the volunteers do an extraordinary job. If you are interested in history this is definitely a must stop in Chatham, the house is beautifully preserved and the knowledge of the staff is formidable. If you are passionate about history you will enjoy your visit to the museum.”

July 22, 2022

Outstanding Local Museum

“This is a terrific little museum with displays of both historical and local interest including an art gallery and a display about the Coast Guard rescue of survivors from the Pendleton disaster in 1952. There is a guided tour with very friendly and knowledgeable docents. There is, of course, a small gift shop with some interesting items. All in all a great way to spend an hour.”

July 22, 2022

Great historical house and museum

“Very well organized and informative museum. We had a tour of the house and the staff helped offer extra details on the individual exhibits around the museum. The grounds are very pretty and well maintained.”

June 26, 2022

Make your plans to visit us this fall!

Birds that flock together . . .



**Help Grow Our
Family and Give the
Gift of Membership**

For more information visit our website:
www.chathamhistoricalsociety.org/our-community/membership

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CALENDAR

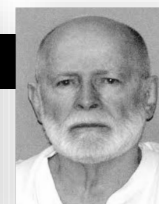


Lecture Series 2022

October 11, 2022

*Whitey Bulger:
Probing the Narrative*

Speaker: Janet Uhlar



November 1, 2022

Women at Sea

Speaker: Barbara Sample

**Combo event with
Marconi Wireless Museum**



2023 Schedule Coming Soon!



EVENTS



Trick or Treat Parade
Bring the kids and grandkids

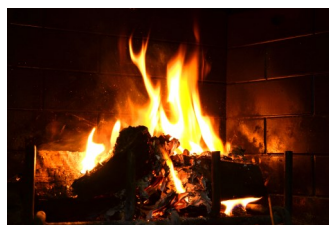
**Saturday,
October 29th
(1-4 PM OPEN HOUSE)**
No Reservations needed

Our 5th Annual Historic Bake Sale

*Help Support the Atwood
with our sweetest fundraiser*

Tuesday, November 22nd

Keep checking the website for details



Hearthwarming at the Atwood

Saturday, December 10th - 10-4
FREE EVENT

Details available on our website soon