

# ATWOOD LOG

FALL/WINTER 2019/2020



THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE CHATHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## From the Executive Director

Greetings,

This summer has been filled with unpredictability. In late July, when the tornadoes ripped through the Cape, we escorted our visitors to the basement for a 20-minute impromptu talk about what goes on in the lower level of the Museum. All was calm as we sat in the dark and we thoroughly enjoyed having an extra unplanned tour with our guests. As we resurfaced, after the storm, we were amazed to find our front lawn and roadway filled with broken trees.

In August, a sinkhole closed our roads for many days bringing our Museum to a virtual standstill. Living in a small New England seaport town often brings unpredictable conditions. Through them all, it is remarkable how resilient our volunteers are in finding their way to the Museum in order to continue their research, host our visitors and members, and bring life to our building.

As we get into the slower months of winter, we want to remind you that the Museum continues to offer year-round programs. These programs include monthly lectures, holiday events, opportunities for private tours, rental space, access to our online collection, ability to conduct research, and projects for volunteers. Our staff will be busy designing and building new exhibits for the coming year. We will also begin reconstructing the Old Atwood House door thanks to a Chatham Community Preservation grant.

Be sure to spend some time with us around the holidays as we repeat some of our most popular events including the second annual Historic Bake Sale at Thanksgiving, the Historic Hauls Gift Shop Sale, Grub with the Grinch, and Hearthwarming with Santa.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Your membership and financial donations have helped contribute to Chatham Historical Society's success for the past 96 years. We are very grateful to you for your investment in "Keeping History Alive."

Danielle Jeanloz  
Executive Director  
Atwood Museum  
Home of the Chatham Historical Society

**On the cover: Historic Stage Harbor Light,  
*photo courtesy of John J. Deignan***

***Thank you to the Hoyt - Ecker family for hosting the  
Historic Stage Harbor Light Member Tour***

## Caught in a Net of Fashion

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the term “fishnet apparel?” Probably stockings, possibly gloves, maybe even headware (think “snood” or “turban”). However, would you have considered glamorous, high fashion clothing sold at Bergdorf Goodman, Bonwit Teller, and Lord and Taylor, as well as more exclusive boutiques, and featured in Vogue Magazine? Not likely.

The Atwood Museum recently received a donation of a full-length fishnet gown with a scallop shell belt buckle. What a find! The Costumes & Textiles Department quickly went to work researching the origin of this unique garment. We found a number of articles featuring the Cape Cod Fishnet Industries, which was founded in 1935 and based in Truro, Massachusetts.

It all began when the nets used by the fishing community intrigued a local woman, Ada Elizabeth “Tiny” Worthington. She first experimented by making window valances and curtains, but quickly progressed to creating wrapped garments. Wrapped, because she didn’t know how to sew! She recruited other women, mostly wives of fishermen, to help with the sewing and other aspects of the thriving business. They worked with a cotton net purchased from a linen factory. Eventually she employed over 40 people, creating dresses, beachwear, turbans, and belts. The craze grew and the business flourished through the 1940s, but eventually waned. The company ceased operations in the 1970s.

Leave it up to Yankees to find a way to make fishing nets even more useful!

The Museum has a second fishnet dress in the collection, as well: a cocktail dress featuring fishnet details, which may date from the same period. Since there are no labels in either of these garments, we are unable to confirm that they were produced by the Cape Cod Fishnet Industries.

Along these fun, local, and colorful lines (no pun intended), the Atwood Museum has another unusual dress relating to fishing culture in the collection. This is the dress created and worn by Rebecca Catron, the winner of the 2014 Miss Eelgrass Competition. The Miss Eelgrass Competition was held for several years in the 1980s and 1990s where men and women would dawn shells, nets, and anything nautical to raise funds for local programs. The event was resurrected in 2014 and was brought back again this year. You can find this dress on display in our Fishing Galleries.

Keep looking and learning, you never know what you’ll find.

**Written by Barbara Hogan, Costumes & Textiles**



Photo courtesy of the Chatham Historical Society

# Cranberry Nut Tart

The following excerpt is taken from *Cranberry Cooking for All Seasons*, by Nancy Cappelloni. This cookbook is packed with cranberry recipes for dressings, stuffing, vegetables, entrees, desserts, baked goods, beverages, and more! It also includes a history of the cranberry and cranberry growing. *Cranberry Cooking for All Seasons* is available for purchase in our gift, just in time for your holiday cooking needs!



**Cranberry picking.**

Postcard from Chatham Historical Society Archives

*This tart is as beautiful to look at as it is to eat. The cranberries on the top of the tart remain red, whole, and shimmer in the glaze. The tart is a bit like a pecan pie filled with mixed nuts and whole cranberries. It makes a stunning holiday dessert.*

Preheat oven to 425°.

In a large mixing bowl whisk together the eggs, brown sugar, corn syrup, vanilla, and butter. Add the flour and salt and stir until the mixture is smooth. Stir in the nuts, and gently fold in the cranberries. Bake the pie crust in the middle of a 425° oven for 10 minutes. Remove the crust from the oven and let it cool for 10 minutes. Lower oven to 350°. Pour the cranberry-nut mixture into the crust and bake for 45-50 minutes or until the crust is golden and the tart has set. Cool on a rack. Serve warm or at room temperature, either plain or with ice cream or whipped cream. This tart can be made a day in advance and store covered at room temperature.



- 3 large eggs
- 1 cup brown sugar
- ½ cup light corn syrup
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ¼ cup butter, melted
- 1 tablespoon flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 ¼ cups walnuts, hazelnuts,  
or pecans, lightly roasted  
and coarsely chopped
- 3 cups whole fresh or  
frozen cranberries
- One 9 – 10 inch pie crust

## The Roaring Bull



### Hotel Mattaquason, Chatham, Mass.

Postcard from Chatham Historical Society Archives

Back in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the southern tip of Nauset Beach ended just about opposite of the Chatham Bars Inn. The entrance to Chatham Harbor was roughly opposite from the old Hotel Mattaquason.

A treacherous shoal – part of the infamous Chatham bar – threatened commercial fishermen trying to get out into the open ocean. Its name?

#### *The Roaring Bull.*

On a flood tide, especially during an easterly wind, huge ocean swells swept across this shoal, creating a roar that could be heard throughout town – thus its name.

There was something ominous about the sound. It seemed to portend disaster -- perhaps recalling those who lost their lives when their ships were driven into these dangerous waters.

Men who spent their lives answering distress calls of ships foundering in these waters lived in town. This was long before the federal government established the Life Saving-Service in 1878 to take over these tasks.

Once the service began, these Chatham men went on to lead rescue stations all along the Eastern Seaboard, leaving behind a long list of thrilling deeds and dramatic rescues.



### The “Bar.”

Photo from the Chatham Historical Society Archives



# Getting Started on Your Family Genealogy

Genealogy research can be great fun - the hunt, the 'aha!' moment, the story unfolding, the brick walls tumbling down. It is your personal detective story!

However, sometimes getting started is the hardest part.

The very first thing you do should be collecting what you and your family members already know: names, dates & places of birth, marriage, death, plus stories including the infamous 'family legends'. Siblings of your direct relatives should be added, wherever possible. Why? An example from my own family: if I'm searching the census for Mary Darling (my grandmother), I get loads of "hits" but since I know her sister is Zillah Darling, I can search for her and narrow the choices dramatically to potentially finding my own family members! Other family details can provide clues, such as "Uncle Harold served in both World Wars."

Remember to *always* record where the information was found, even if it is only "Aunt Sue told me."

It is helpful to use a genealogy application to record your data. I use Family Tree Maker from [www.mackiev.com/ftm/](http://www.mackiev.com/ftm/). It is possible, however, to create records without that convenience. There are a variety of software options available online. Almost all of these have good features and are relatively easy to use.

Start collecting data. Ask questions of your family first and then move on to other sources.

Written family genealogies have been compiled and published since a surge of interest that began around 1876, during the First Centennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Some genealogies are mere speculation, but most often they are well documented, making them a safe bet to add to your tree.

Here are some resources that might help you:

At the *Eldredge Public Library (EPL)* [www.eldredgelibrary.org/](http://www.eldredgelibrary.org/), the Reference & Genealogy Department librarians can provide access to census records, local and regional history books, as well as family genealogies. The genealogy room is normally open on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday 1-5 PM.

A good selection of digitized family genealogies can also be found online at <https://books.google.com/>, [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org), and [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com).

At the *Chatham Historical Society (CHS)*, we have several unpublished genealogies submitted to us by families in the Chatham area. Some are quite well documented, others have no documentation at all. The quality varies, but they are certainly worth consulting as they may give the searcher a clue. You can start by searching through the online database at: <https://chathamhistoricalsociety.org/collections/online-collection/>. If you need more

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help or access to the collection, please email [archives.atwood@gmail.com](mailto:archives.atwood@gmail.com) for an appointment to view any of the items.

Some of the following are common websites that provide information. The information that results from your search have a source and, often, a viewable source, such as town vital records or federal census.

1. [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) is the website provided by the Mormons, a.k.a. Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (LDS). They have collected an enormous amount of data and the good part is, IT'S FREE! The first time you do a search, you will be asked to create your free account with a user name and password. I have found that my information was never used for any other purpose but accessing the search database. **Caveat:** Be careful using the user submitted ancestry and/or pedigree files as they *may* contain undocumented information.

2. [www.americanancestors.org](http://www.americanancestors.org) is the New England Historic Genealogical Society website. They have some free databases, including the Chatham Vital Records through 1900. The first time you go to the site, they will request that you set up a free account. For a reasonable membership (under \$100/year), you may get access to all of their records, including information from their journal, *The Register*, plus other journals and newsletters from around the region.

3. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) is a fee based website – if you wish to get deeper into records, it might be worth the cost, currently \$99 for a six-month, USA only membership. This site provides a tremendous amount of data, including the information that is found on [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). **Caveat:** Again, be careful using the user submitted family files as they *may* contain undocumented information.

**Good hunting,  
Judy Cunniff - Archivist**

## Can you identify this unknown soldier?

Our Archives Department could use your help. If anyone has any information or can identify the soldier in the picture, the Chatham Historical Society would be grateful.

Please send a message to our archivists at [archives.atwood@gmail.com](mailto:archives.atwood@gmail.com) and indicate unknown soldier in the subject line.

*Thank you for your help!*



## Friendraising events

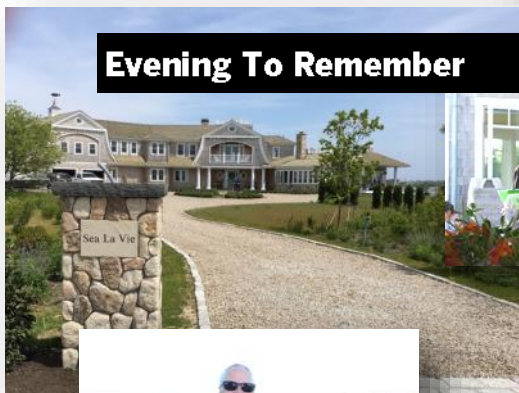


# Event

## Sunday Lecture Series



## Evening To Remember



## Annual Meeting

*Enjoy what the Atwood has to O*



# ts at the Atwood

Pirates Day



History Weekend



Holidays at the Atwood



ffer!

# Opportunities to Support Your Museum and the Society

As a nonprofit organization which maintains a historic home, elegant museum, pristine grounds, a small dedicated staff, and a variety of exhibits and programs which reflect some of Chatham's and the Cape's rarest treasures, finding funds to cover expenses is an ongoing priority. Each year, we rely on donations, grants, admissions, and membership to cover our general expenses. Below are some of the ways in which you can support the Chatham Historical Society and help us build even more exciting programs and increase our member and visitor services:

- \* **Donations - Cash, Check, Credit Card, and In-Kind** - You can do this online through our website, by stopping in, by mail, or by telephone.
- \* **Donation Plans** - Monthly donation plans are available to make it easier for you to donate over time.
- \* **Donation Matches** - Some companies will match your donations if you enroll us in their programs.
- \* **Gifts through Wills or Trusts** - Create a legacy for you and your family by contributing to our endowment.
- \* **Gifts of Life Insurance** - Name the Society as a beneficiary.
- \* **Gifts from Retirement Plans** - Name the Society as a beneficiary.
- \* **Donation of Real Estate** - Whether local or not, this special gift can be a valuable asset to our organization and could provide tax incentives for you.
- \* **Gifts of Memberships** - Buy for yourself, family, friends, and newcomers to our community. This gift can create lasting memories and helps build the foundation of our organization.
- \* **Gifts of Bricks** - Purchase this unique item as gifts memorializing family, friends, special events, or thoughts in our walkway.
- \* **Time and Talent** - With the many jobs we accomplish, the Museum relies on donated time by professionals who wish to share their expertise to complete projects or help out. We would be delighted to speak to you and match you with meaningful opportunities to volunteer.

Easy access to donate, volunteer, or purchase bricks is available under "Donate Today" throughout our website or you may call us at (508) 945-2403 ext. 10 or email at [cimparato.atwood@gmail.com](mailto:cimparato.atwood@gmail.com) for forms or more information.



**DONATE  
TODAY!**

## Atwood: The Next Generation

Who doesn't love traditions? We all have them and they help us remember the past and give us an anchor for the future. Nevertheless, sometimes we get nervous that the next generation won't carry on these traditions. Historical societies know this fear. But, we are glad to report that this past summer has eased these fears for the Chatham Historical Society. Beginning at the end of May, the Atwood's summer interns started to arrive! We had three wonderful interns for the summer to help us out with various needs and projects, and they brought along their good vibes too!

**Ellie O'Reilly:** Ellie returned to the Atwood for another summer full of projects, and she knocked them out of the park! Ellie hails from Northern Virginia and has spent most of her summers in Chatham. She is currently in her final year of college at Cornell University. Some of her projects include logistic support for our summer gala, volunteer coordinating, working with our membership department, social media, updating our website, working on our online shop, and plenty of other miscellaneous tasks.



**Ellie and Jake taking a break.**

**Jake Klinger:** Jake reached out to the Atwood to offer his skills where he could help. We quickly took him up on the offer and we're glad we did! Jake recently received his Master's in History from Ball State University in Indiana, where he concentrated his studies on the American Civil War. While at the Atwood, Jake undertook the project of creating digital tours of the museum. Jake filmed several of our docents giving tours throughout the museum, like the Mural Barn and the North Beach Camp. He did excellent work editing the films. Jake also began the project of photographing old maps in our collection and updating their files, which can be seen online through our website. Needless to say, Jake moved us forward with some especially important projects.

**Ned Scharlau:** Ned is in his sophomore year of high school back home in Minnesota. In the summers, he visits Chatham. Ned got in touch with us to see if we could use a hand around the museum while he was in town. We can always use another volunteer here at the Atwood, but we didn't realize that we would be acquiring another excellent docent. Ned hit

*(Continued on page 13)*

# 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 a simple 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](http://www.tripadvisor.com/reviewit)

## Recent feedback:

### Great morning at the Atwood Museum

“I would highly recommend it for friends and family- fascinating glimpse into Cape Cod history. Personal tour by the narrator was amazing and insightful, the curator could not have been more welcoming. The highlight of our holiday”

### Cool way to spend a few hours—lots of interesting exhibits

“We were looking to do something different. We've been coming to the lower cape for 15 years and have done much of it all. Except for Chatham. We decided to go to Chatham and checked out review on TA to see what was a around. The review for the Atwood Museum was spot on. It's a lovely museum with interesting exhibits. Some very local, some on the broader cape. There's stuff for all levels. Would go again.”

### Worth the trip off Main Street

“I had visited this museum decades ago and was amazed at the new additions and exhibits. If you have any interest in history or the cape you will be happy you made the time to visit. The staff were friendly, knowledgeable & proud of this piece of history that is so well preserved. You can choose to view the many rooms solo or join one of the staff to hear more detail. I wish we had brought all of our family to visit the Atwood museum.”

**Have you visited us lately?**

(Continued from page 11)

the ground running by supporting our upstairs volunteers several days a week! He worked in the museum shop; he worked as the host; he worked in the galleries; but where Ned truly shined was in the Alice Stallknecht Mural Barn. Many visitors left saying what an excellent tour they received from him. And we'd have to agree!



So fear not! If this past summer was any indication of what the future holds...it's sure looking bright!

**Ned, showing off his computer skills before heading back to high school in Minneapolis.**

## Chatham Historical Society

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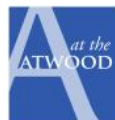
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# CALENDAR

## Sunday Lecture Series

**October 20, 2019**

*Historic Preservation*

**Speaker: Ellen Briggs**

**November 10, 2019**

*The Urban Whale: North Atlantic Right Whale  
at the crossroads*

**Speaker: Marilyn Marx**

**January 26, 2020**

*Landfall at Cape Cod: Reconstructing the  
voyage of the Mayflower*

**Speaker: Bill Horrocks**

**February 9, 2020**

*Slavery, Indenture and the abolition movement  
on Cape Cod*

**Speaker: Jim Coogan**

**March 22, 2020**

*Author Joseph C. Lincoln:  
A Capt.'s Son Writes of Old Cape Cod*

**Speaker: Bob Heppe**

**ENJOY VOLUNTEERING?**

**If so, the Atwood Museum wants you!!**

**For information and opportunities**

**Contact Kevin Wright: [kwright.atwood@gmail.com](mailto:kwright.atwood@gmail.com)**



# EVENTS



## Looking for some Spooktacular Fun?

Join the Atwood Museum as we celebrate Halloween at the Batwood!

**Wednesday, October 30th**

Check our website for details

## Let the Atwood help you with your holiday baking

Don't miss our 2nd annual bake sale!

**Tuesday, November 26th**

**9:00 am - till sold out**



## Join us for our 3rd annual Grub with the Grinch

The Grinch returns to the Atwood Museum to celebrate another **Merry Grinchmas**.

**Saturday, December 14th**

**9:00 - 11:00 am**

## Historic Hauls is Back!!

Members Year-end Sale 25% off

**Fridays & Saturdays  
During December  
1-4 PM**



# CHATHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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