

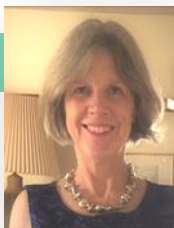


ATWOOD LOG

SPRING/SUMMER 2018



**THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE CHATHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



From the Executive Director

Greetings,

If you have driven by the Museum this winter, you probably noticed the mounds of dirt, stacks of beams, and hearty builders working on the Old

Atwood House. The restoration of the house foundation is now complete and the floorboards are in place. Ground work continues when we need to regrade the front to guide water away from the base of the house.

Recently, we received a 23-page report from Archeologist Greg Chartier describing the many fascinating finds from the dig he lead last fall. Nearly a foot of soil was removed from beneath the floorboards to allow the beams under the house to "air" properly. That soil netted buckets full of treasures from a prehistoric arrowhead to the skull of a boar. More information about the dig will become available in the future.

In the meantime, our staff and volunteers have focused on bringing fresh new changes to several of our exhibits. Additionally, the Double Take exhibit, which previewed last fall, has been greatly expanded into a two-part exhibit. The first series of photos will be featured at the beginning of the season, followed by the second series later in the season.

Our popular summer annual Evening to Remember gala will take place on Shore Road, overlooking North Beach. More details about this stunning location and event are described in this Log.

To our newest members and volunteers, welcome to our family! To our ongoing supporters, thank you for your continued generosity and support. We encourage you to come often this year and bring your friends and family as we continue to expand our season, add exciting new events, learn about the past from one another, share our passion for history and culture, and enjoy the many exhibits that the Atwood House & Museum has to offer.

Danielle R. Jeanloz
Executive Director



Crosstrees, Chatham home of Joseph C. Lincoln.

Postcard

Renewed Lincoln Exhibit Reflects His Study

By Debra Lawless

Not too long ago, the beloved novels of Joseph C. Lincoln who lived on Chatham's Shore Road could be found in just about any home in Chatham, and were even placed by considerate hosts and hostesses in guest rooms for the pleasure of their visitors' nighttime reading.

Cape Cod was and is a distinctive place, and Cape Codders were and are a distinctive people. The novels, essays and poems of Joe Lincoln celebrated that distinctiveness. And as one of Lincoln's obituaries noted after his death in 1944, his books were popular from Maine to California.

Lincoln was born in Brewster in 1870. By 1916, made prosperous by sales of his books and stories, Lincoln lived in a magnificent house called Crosstrees. Tourists pilgrimaged to Chatham with the hope of meeting him and of being photographed with him, or at least buying a postcard of Crosstrees. The setting of the house embodied iconic Cape Cod elements of Lincoln's books, confirming the reality of the books in the minds of visitors. Next to the house was a windmill, and in Lincoln's yard "hollyhocks grow in profusion and a colorful old fashioned garden greets visitors," the *Chatham Monitor* reported in July 1939.

Now, imagine that you can travel through time back to the 1930s, to the early 1940s, when Lincoln was writing the last few of his forty-seven books with a soft, stubby pencil on yellow paper. Your destination is Crosstrees.

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This year's *Evening to Remember* will be held at a new – but very old - venue

This year's exciting fundraiser, "Evening to Remember," will take place at a new – but very old – venue: Iconic "Sur Mer," located at 162 Shore Road in Chatham.

Set for July 21, the event will be held on the lawn between the 1800-era Joshua Y. Bearse house and a picturesque windmill that has been in Trustee Tim Weller's family since 1929. Purchased by his grandfather, Douglas C. Townson, the property overlooks Chatham Harbor and North Beach Island.

The house was originally built about 1800 at the corner of School and Water streets and was moved to its current location in 1913. The windmill, which now serves as Tim's office, was built about 1850 on the north side of



Cockle Cove Road in South Chatham and was moved to its present location in 1916. A guest room was added, and for a time the windmill served as an antiques shop.

The property abuts another well-known Chatham property, "Crosstrees," built by famous Cape Cod author Joseph C. Lincoln.

A favorite family story tells how Tim's mother, Barbara Weller, then aged 8 or 9, and her older brother devised a way to earn extra pocket change. They made up a sign saying "Tour Joe Lincoln's Windmill, 5 cents." It wasn't long before she and her brother found themselves in some very hot water!

The Weller family had the house and windmill flaked and restored beginning in 2005. It was awarded a Chatham Community Preservation award in 2008.

"Evening to Remember" will feature silent and live auctions, abundant hors d'oeuvres, libations and a special guest of honor (to be announced).

So, mark your calendars. We'll see you there!

Thank You to our Major Supporters:

**Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank, Chatham Jewelers Inc.,
Chatham Squire, The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation,
Kemper Family Foundations, and Wequassett Resort and Golf Club**

A Closer Look: Administrator Margaret Martin

By Lynn Van Dine
The other administrator

Administrator Margaret Martin has seen many directors and many changes at the Atwood House & Museum / Chatham Historical Society, yet the organization continues to thrive and prosper under her steady hand.



“Margaret is the glue of our organization, applying her knowledge and experience to mentor our many volunteers and staff members, including me. Her steadfast approach helps all of us keep focused to get the job done,” says Executive Director Danielle Jeanloz. “I admire Margaret’s unflappable demeanor - she can keep calm through whatever chaos brews around her like last minute deadlines and unexpected groups of visitors. Her precise math skills combined with Yankee ingenuity enable her to stretch our non-profit dollars beyond anyone’s imagination. Margaret’s kindness and willingness to help others make her a very popular and welcome member of our group.”

“Since I have had the pleasure of being on the Board of Trustees, I have been inspired by Margaret’s ability to get so many things done in such a short period of time,” says Board of Trustees Chair Virginia Nickerson. “From working endless hours with Ryder on the set up of their train for the holidays to making sure thank you notes, publications and correspondences are produced in a timely order. Always kind and thoughtful in her actions. We thank you, Margaret!”

“Ryder (her husband) and I came by here once many years ago, long before the major additions which were added before I started working here,” Margaret says. “I specifically remember Jane Powers, who was the docent in the Mural Barn at the time.”

“I was at a Garden Club meeting in late 2005, when I heard Betsey Stevens mention that the Historical Society was looking for an office replacement, since Nancy Barr was moving off the job. Since I had retired

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Perhaps Lincoln's wife Florence welcomes you and ushers you into a charming room with red walls. She invites you to sit in a comfortable wing chair pulled up before the fireplace mantel. Your feet sinking into an Oriental rug, you gaze up between the windows to the oil portrait that the illustrator Harold M. Brett painted of his good friend, the author. Lincoln's eyeglasses and a homely pencil lie on his desk. A collection of Lincoln's novels is nearby in a breakfront bookshelf with glass doors.



Joseph C. Lincoln

Portrait by Harold Brett

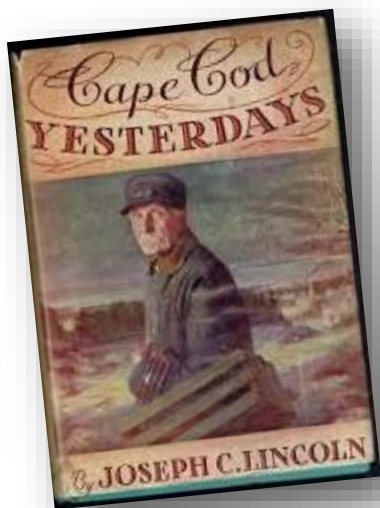
This, then, is the newly-refurbished Joseph C. Lincoln Room in the Chatham Historical Society. This summer you are invited to visit this stunning room, and to thumb through Lincoln's novels and admire Brett's illustrations. Brett, who illustrated at least eleven of Lincoln's books, including *Cape Cod Yesterdays*, lived about a mile from Lincoln in North

Chatham. It was as if the two men were born to collaborate, so sympathetic were their outlooks. If Lincoln was often called "the writer who invented Cape Cod," then Brett was the artist "who gave Cape Cod a face."

"I try to do in my Cape Cod paintings what Joseph Lincoln did in his books," Brett told a newspaper interviewer in 1921. "We both have wanted to preserve the old-time atmosphere of the Cape." And what a beautiful place their old-time Cape Cod was.

A quick glance at a few of Lincoln's book covers shows the pair's conception of Cape Cod. It is a place of

quaint shingled houses tucked behind white picket fences. Pink hollyhocks and blue larkspur grow in profusion. In the distance, a sail can be spotted on the blue, blue sea. Chatham itself was the kind of town Lincoln made



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famous through his short stories and novels, beginning with *Cap'n Eri* in 1904. (*Cap'n Eri* was made into the 2008 film “The Golden Boys,” shot in Chatham.) Lincoln’s novels are populated by eccentrics and old salts, the kind you imagine wearing yellow oil skins and smoking corn cob pipes. Romances are sparked between natives and summer people. Town gossips spread rumors. Crotchety old sea captains stir up trouble. And while the novels are often humorous, serious events such as the Great War are sometimes in the background.

Take *Shavings*, Lincoln’s novel of 1918. It was so popular that it became a Broadway play. *Shavings* tells the story of an oracular figure named J. Edgar W. Winslow, nicknamed Shavings, who makes a living creating toy whirligigs. Although Lincoln’s towns are composites of Cape towns, this pleasurable novel is one that is most clearly set in Chatham, complete with the World War I-era Naval Air Station. Whether or not Lincoln’s characters really existed—and he swore his characters,

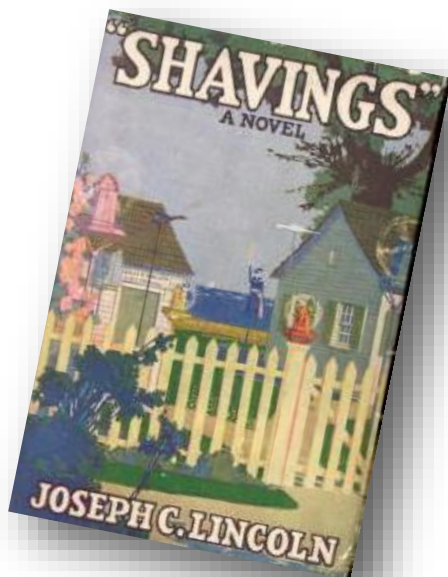
too, were composites—they fit into the idea of the Cape that Lincoln sold to outsiders. It was an idea that appealed to many, many readers.

The simple truth is this: Even today Lincoln’s books are fun to read. He tells a good story. When you begin reading one of his novels, Lincoln hooks you.

Visit the Chatham Historical Society’s updated Joseph C. Lincoln room. Sit and read for a spell. Perhaps you, too, will enjoy traveling to old Cape Cod with Joe Lincoln as your companion. “He loved Cape Cod, people, and good food,” said Lincoln’s only son, Freeman, who wrote about his father years after his death.

And don’t we all.

Debra Lawless is the author of *Chatham in the Jazz Age* and *Chatham From the Second World War to the Age of Aquarius*.



CALENDAR

Lecture Series 2018

May 20, 2018

*Picturing Chatham:
Photographic Postcards*
Speaker: Rosamond B. Vaule

June 17, 2018

*Close Encounters of an Ocean Kind:
A Photographic Journey*
Speaker: John King

September 16, 2018

*Chatham Orpheum Theater:
If these walls could talk*
Speaker: Naomi Turner

For complete
please visit
[www.chathamhi](http://www.chathamhistory.org)

Even
Remem
Saturday

Come join
annual func

*This year's eve
at the fab
overlooking the c*

Check our website
[www.chathamhi](http://www.chathamhistory.org)

**Celebrate
Chatham's
History
Weekend**

June 15 & 16

Be part of Historic Chatham at
the Atwood. The museum will
be open from 10 am-4 pm.

Half price admission—
Members FREE!

HISTORIC
CHATHAM

Experience it!

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OF EVENTS

For a complete list of events
visit our website:
historicalsociety.org

Join us for our
Annual Fundraising Gala
on Friday, July 21

Join us for our
Annual Fundraising Gala!

The event will take place
at the fabulous Sur Mer
Ocean on Shore Road
For ticket information
historicalsociety.org

SPECIAL EVENT



FREE
Locals Day

MAY 19, 2018 ■ 10 AM -4 PM

**The Atwood House
& Museum
Opens for the Season!**

Friday, May 25th - 1 - 4 pm

New and Enhanced Exhibits:

Double Take

Joseph C. Lincoln

Pendleton Rescue & Lifesaving Stations

Tool Room featuring the Atwood Sleigh

CHS

Annual Meeting

Sunday, August 19, 2018

2:00-3:30 pm

Eldredge Public Library

Keynote Speaker:

**Tim Wood, Editor of
The Cape Cod Chronicle**

(Continued from page 5)

from teaching several years before, I thought this might be interesting, as history has always been one of my interests.”

Margaret contacted Spencer Grey, chair of the Board of Trustees (there was no director at that time) to apply. The job was four hours a day, Monday through Friday, and, as Spencer described it, the role was simply someone to answer the phone.



“As you will surmise, the job evolved from there,” Margaret says. “For the first month or two, I had to hunt for things to do, but that didn’t last long.”

Around that time, the Historical Society’s Board of Trustees began restructuring from one board responsible for everything to an Executive Board (now the Board of Trustees), an Operating Board (now simply Operations), and the Overseers. Mary Ann Gray was the first president of the Operating Board and asked Margaret to take the minutes. Then Spencer asked her to take minutes for the Executive Board. After six months at the helm of the Operating Board, Mary Ann decided to focus on the Archives and Janet Daly was hired to work as its president in 2006. Nancy Barr, who had continued to compile the *Atwood Log* after her resignation, found she didn’t have time to do that.

“So Janet (Marjollet) asked me to try putting the *Log* together. My first *Atwood Log* came out in Autumn 2006.”

“Over the last 12 years, I have worked with at least six individuals in the position of President or Executive Director. Each has been interesting and different from the others, and I have learned a variety of things from each of them.” Of course, with each leader, Margaret’s responsibilities as administrator varied substantially, according to how each individual approached their position and what kind of support they required.

“Most of the changes are related to who is here doing what,” Margaret says. “Many of those who were here when I started have retired or may be here in a much more limited capacity. As new people take over various responsibilities, they have their own approaches to tasks. Teaching may have helped me learn that as each new group of students came in had its own dynamic and required adjusting and being flexible in working with them.”

Her favorite part of the job? “I do very much like working with different personalities and seeing a range of people when I am here.”

Special Thanks

With the many people who give so generously to the Atwood House & Museum/Chatham Historical Society, we would like take a moment to thank some of you who have donated a significant amount of time and supplies over the last 6 months and helped us prepare for the upcoming busy season:

Dreyfus Foundation

Kemper Family Foundation

Harwich Paint and Decorating

Steve Nickerson and

Steve Nickerson Builders

Stephanie Bartlett

Rob Bergh

Dawn Boynton

Don Broderick

Marilyn Brown

Steve Burlingame

Sherrie Burson

Linda Cebula

Sue Curcio

Priscilla Dalrymple

Dick Evans

Ron Flechtner

Laurie Gates

Stuart Green

Mary Ann Gray

Spencer Grey

Scott Hamilton

Gaylene Heppe

Robert Heppe

Barbara Hogan

Bill Horrocks

Debra Lawless

Roger Ling

Kathryn Manson

Janet Marjollet

Mark Massoni

Ginny Nickerson

Ruth Norman

David Oakley

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Bob Ralls

Florence Seldin

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Don St. Pierre

Alan & Pat Sachtleben

Debbie Swenson

Lynn Van Dine

Craig Vokey

Tim Weller

Ann Vick-Westgate

Tim Wood

Kevin Wright

Nancy Wright

Jean Young

Andy Young

Bob Zaremba

A special thanks to our guest lecturers this winter who volunteered their time and expertise:

Curtis Martin

John Whelan & Kim Roderiques

Bob Ryder

Chris Macort

Rosamond B. Vaule

John King

Lincoln Books Available In Our Gift Shop!

While visiting the Joseph C. Lincoln exhibit, you can browse through original copies of the author's books. These vintage books are available for sale at the Museum as well as in local bookstores and some antique shops.

For more information about Lincoln, these publications are also available:

Joseph Lincoln's Essential Cape Cod Reader, by Joseph C. Lincoln with a forward by Priscilla Dalrymple of the Chatham Historical Society, offers a condensed biography about the author and a sampling of many of the writer's works, including poetry from his *Cape Cod Ballads*, short stories, and a novel, *Cap'n Dan's Daughter*. Paperback, 192 pages, published by Schiffer Press in 2006, \$14.95

The Prolific Pencil: A Biography of Joseph Crosby Lincoln by Percy Fielitz Rex, published 1980, is "the story of a poet and 'yarn' spinner who wrote verse... and short stories about his native Cape Cod for the national magazine market, and who created memorable characters and situations, all of which take place in the small towns of Cape Cod of 60 or more years ago. His insight, humor and keen sense of the goodness in people helped sustain his popularity during his publishing years, and made him a household name in the homes of America."

The author of this volume, P.F.Rex, began collecting Cape Cod books in the 1940's. By this time, Lincoln's books were becoming collector's items. The Rev. Rex was known for giving lectures on Lincoln before historical societies and church groups. Through the years, more and more information came to Rex until he felt compelled to tell the story of the writer he considered a remarkable author who touched many lives.

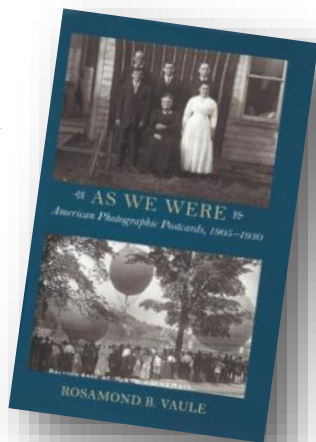
The "must have" definitive biography of Joseph C. Lincoln will enhance your enjoyment of the newly renovated Lincoln Room and exhibit. New hardcover copies of this comprehensive out-of-print publication about Lincoln's life and works are currently available, Hardcover, 322 pages, published by Sullwold Publishing in 1980, \$18

The Bibliography of Periodical Publications by and about Joseph Crosby Lincoln (including works co-authored with Freeman Lincoln) 1896-1969 compiled by the Chatham Historical Society: A complete listing of all of Lincoln's articles, poetry, plays, books and writings about him, sorted by date. Compiled and printed by the Chatham Historical Society in 2012, 24 pages, \$5

Talk of the Town

The 2018 lecture series continues in May and June with two programs that promise to be exciting and informative. These lectures are scheduled at 2:00 p.m. in the Mural Barn of the Atwood House & Museum on the Sundays specified. Be sure to arrive early as seats are limited.

The May speaker is Rosamond B. Vaule who published a book in 2004: *As We Were: American Photographic Postcards, 1905 – 1930*. A review in the Boston Globe commented that the impact of these postcards was to bring photography to the masses, because they were very affordable, and could be mailed anywhere in the country for just a penny. While many came from small studios all over the country, there were a small number created from original photographic prints, either directly from glass plates or from film negatives. This lecture will concentrate on the postcards from the new England region. This program is scheduled for May 20th.



On June 17th, explorer, photographer, author, and Chatham conservationist John King will share insights into his personal voyage of re-discovery of the coastal and ocean wildlife that spends time each year in the waters off Cape Cod and elsewhere in the world. During this hour-long presentation, you will hear John's stories and see dramatic photographs (both above and below the water) of unique encounters with sharks and whales around the planet.

Don't Miss Double Take!

Our New Exhibit featuring *Historical & Current Panoramic Photographs of Chatham*: We previewed the exhibit last Fall . . . Now come and enjoy the full exhibit with three times the photographs. Double Take will be a two-part exhibit as we rotate photographs this season.

These historic prints will be available for purchase, details at the exhibit or online at: www.chathamhistoricalsociety.org

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

What some of our visitors are saying:

From - RC - St. Charles, MO - A Gem in Chatham

“We visited the Atwood House & Museum in September. It is an excellent museum providing a comprehensive history of Chatham.

We were particularly impressed with the art exhibit of Alice Stallknecht. The staff and tour guides were excellent. We highly recommend seeing this gem in Chatham.”

From Tom K - Great Place!

“If you like history & want a taste of Chatham thru the years the Atwood House is the place to go. You'll be greeted by a friendly,

knowledgeable, & energetic staff. The museum is laid out with plenty of displays of local art, the war periods, glass & shell collections, Parianware, & The Finest Hours exhibit. Plan 1 - 2 hours to visit.”

From - Jen R. Boston, MA - wonderful history

“We ended up spending 2+ hours here. The tour was fascinating for all of us - 70 year old, 40 somethings, 9 year old. The house is well

preserved and tour guide detailed in her descriptions. But what took the cake is the historical society's museum at the end of the tour. So much history, from the early settlers to the "Finest Hour" display. Incredible with many friendly volunteers who have connections there to fill you in on details. Highly recommend stopping in.”

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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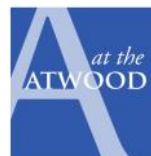
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