



ATWOOD LOG

SPRING/SUMMER 2020



THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE CHATHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY



From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

With your generous support, we continue to build programs and exhibits for the coming year.

Our staff of three is committed to providing our community with year-round educational and research opportunities, accessibility to our buildings and grounds for tours, and a variety of events. We could not accomplish the work, however, without the help of you, our volunteers and donors.

In getting ready for the summer season, several new exhibits are under construction and are scheduled to open this spring. Other projects underway include volunteers working to restore a dress from the Atwood Family Collection. We are mid-way through an Integrated Pest Management project, where we are protecting items in our collection from insect damage. A number of student groups, teachers, and administrators have visited us this winter as part of their school programs. In addition to these groups, the Atwood is getting ready to handle more bus tours than in the past, as group tour organizers are discovering what we have to offer.

Recently, we have added a new section to our website at www.chathamhistoricalsociety.org called *Oral Histories*. The material is in our “Collections” section which can be found on the home page of our website. Thanks to a generous donor, we have digitized and transcribed a series of spoken histories recorded by members of our community in the 1950s-60s. Some of the material includes memories as far back as the late 1800s! More of these histories will be added to our website in the coming year. We hope that you will enjoy experiencing these fascinating snapshots in time.

As a valued member of the Chatham Historical Society, let us know how you feel about your Museum and Society. We also encourage you to review us online through sites such as TripAdvisor and Google. Positive reviews bring in more visitors! Email me at director.atwood@gmail.com with your feedback about what you like about your Museum, what we can do better, and what you would like to see from us in the future. We are sincerely interested in what you have to say.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Chatham Historical Society/Atwood Museum. We always look forward to seeing you At the Atwood!

Danielle Jeanloz
Executive Director

Multiple New Exhibits Opening at the Atwood Museum

This May, get ready for new exhibits at the Atwood. 2020 is a big year for anniversaries and we have been working all fall and winter to create new exhibits for our visitors.

Marking the 400 years since the Mayflower first came to Cape Cod's shores, the Atwood has created the exhibit *The Turning Point: The Wampanoags and the European Settlers*. To show what was here long before colonists arrived, *The Wampanoags Exhibit*, will be available for viewing. This exhibit sponsored by the Kemper Family Foundations features Wampanoag history in Chatham, displays showing important places to the Wampanoag community, and historic timelines.

The European Settlers Exhibit will show the



Wampanoag wetu

different facets of the Mayflower experience. Come and learn about what caused the crew of the Mayflower to turn around off Chatham's shore and head back around the Cape to Provincetown instead of continuing south to the Hudson River; get to know some of the Mayflower passengers and their life stories in our audio component; see what kinds of medical practices were used onboard the ship, and much more.

Another new exhibit for 2020 is *Remembering Our Heroes: the 75th Anniversary of the End of WWII*. This exhibit will outline the progression of the Second World War and the important role that Chatham played.

Between the Naval Air Base and Coast Guard Station, and many other important offices, Chatham was busy supporting the war effort, and this is our chance to say thank you to those who served our country. Available for viewing will be iconic and lesser-known photos, preserved artifacts, and all American stories.

Last but not least, visit the Old House and find a special area dedicated to commemorating the 100th anniversary of the ratification of women's right to vote in the United States.

2020 is sure to be a big year and we hope you can take some time to



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“Dauntless against a Rising Sun.” William S. Phillips

Photo courtesy of The National Archives

Remembering World War II

By: Don Broderick, Atwood Museum Contributing Writer and Archivist

It's Tuesday, late morning on Jan. 28, 2020.

I am working down in the Archives Department today. I have many mixed emotions and none of them involve levity, which I enjoy filtering into my usual Atwood Log articles.

As I write, I am chronicling WWII statistics. While at my desk, I can hear the voices of dozens of 10-year-old schoolchildren upstairs, as they tour and absorb our museum exhibits with eager curiosity. I feel the stark contrast between what I am writing and what I am hearing. A colleague of mine, who leads WWII aviation tours in England, told me he feels the need to impress upon the schoolchildren who join his tours that, “If these young people had not done what they did in WWII, half of you would never have been born and the rest would be speaking German.”

As we get further and further away from the Second World War, it is important that we remember the events and the people, not as historical facts in a book, but as tragedy that happened to real people, with very serious consequences. Many aviators, for example, died in WWII. Almost 1,000 Army airplanes, the Air Force had not been founded yet, disappeared en route to foreign locations. On top of that, an eye-watering 43,581 aircraft were lost

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overseas, including 22,948 on combat mission and 20,633 attributable to non-combat causes. In a single 376-plane raid in August 1943, against Germany, 60 B-17s were shot down. That was a 16% loss rate and meant 600 empty bunks back at the base in England. In 1942-1943, it was statistically impossible for bomber crews to complete a 25-mission tour in Europe. Pacific area casualties were less with 4,530 losses in combat, owing to

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Chatham Veteran

As the Atwood Museum remembers the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, it is my pleasure and honor to tell you about one of our own WWII veterans who took the oath and joined the United States Marines directly out of high school in 1942. Today this 95-year-old veteran is Private First Class Dwight Myer of Chatham. After Dwight signed up, he was shipped out to boot camp. Following boot camp, Dwight and many others boarded a ship bound for Wellington, New Zealand. After an arduous and dangerous journey with barely two meals a day, they arrived on Thanksgiving, only to transfer to another vessel bound for the island of Guadalcanal to join "K" Company, 6th Marine Regiment. This was the Pacific theater.

The Guadalcanal campaign, also codenamed Operation Watchtower, was fought between August 1942 and February 1943. This campaign was the first major land offensive waged against Japan by the US and Allied Forces.

In the jungle, on offensive patrol, while closing in on a surrounded and desperate Japanese unit, PFC Myer took an enemy round through his thigh and another in his foot. He eventually recovered, finished his tour of duty and was discharged in 1945. He was awarded the Purple Heart for his actions in the war.

After a career as a military, and then private company, traffic manager, Dwight and his late wife, Florine, retired to Chatham. They have been very active residents of the community. We are grateful for their dedication and loyalty to the Atwood Museum. Together, they volunteered at the Chatham Historical Society for over 20 years. They were married for a loving 72 years and raised three sons. Dwight can be found showing folks how it's done on the pickle ball court, working mornings at Maps of Antiquity, and stopping by the Atwood to lend a hand on various projects. Thank you for your service, Dwight!

Some of Dwight's uniforms and paraphernalia will be on display in our upcoming WWII commemoration exhibit opening this spring. Stop by and help us *Remember Our Heroes.*

Don Broderick



Early 20th Century Postcard Photographers Shed Light on Chatham's History

by Susan Mulgrew

An advantage of being a vacation destination is that Chatham has had much of its history recorded in the form of postcards. It wasn't until 1898 that the U. S. Post Office first authorized the use of privately printed postcards, with an image printed on one side. These postcards immediately became popular with vacationers, who could take advantage of the adage that "a picture is worth a thousand words" and send an image of the local scenery along with a brief message. Not only were postcards popular as stationery, they were valued as souvenirs and collectibles.

Initially most postcards were printed in Europe or New York, but this changed in 1902 when the Eastman Kodak Company introduced photocard stock created specifically for the printing of postcards from photo negatives. These postcards became known as real photo postcards (RPPC). RPPCs gave

local photographers the flexibility to publish postcards quickly, without having to order a minimum quantity from a large printing company.

The earliest local publisher of RPPCs in Chatham was Richardson Studio. The studio was located on the east side of Chatham Bars Ave., near the intersection with Main St. The studio operated from the early 1900s (1902-1907 depending on the source) until 1914 when the building was removed to make way for the construction of the Brick Block. Richardson's postcards were often of popular tourist attractions, but he also photographed events, such as Chatham's 1912 bicentennial, where RPPC printing allowed postcards of the event to be available for sale almost immediately. Little else is known about Richardson, even his first name remains a mystery. Some accounts indicate that Richardson's business was bought



Mayflower Studio and Post Card Shop 1918-1924.



Chatham Bars Avenue during World War I.

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Chatham Light soon after the North Tower was removed.

Photos courtesy of Susan Mulgrew.

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by Charles H. Smallhoff.

Charles H. Smallhoff began his Chatham photography business, Mayflower Studio, in 1908. He was the official photographer of Chatham's Bicentennial Celebration and in 1915 he became one of the original tenants of the Brick Block, with his studio located on the site formerly occupied by Richardson Studio. In 1918, Smallhoff moved his business across Main St., leasing the space that had been Marcus Howard's tailor shop. After this move, Smallhoff began advertising his shop as the Mayflower Studio & Post Card Shop. The business gradually evolved from a portrait studio to a retail photography shop that sold cameras and offered film processing/printing, and photo framing. By 1922, books, games, toys, and fountain pens were advertised for sale as the shop transitioned from a photo studio to a variety store. The Mayflower Studio became very successful and in 1924, Smallhoff brought in Robert L. Ennis as a partner and changed the name of the business to the Mayflower Shop. That same year Smallhoff and Ennis purchased the building from the Howard family and expanded their inventory of non-photographic items. The Mayflower Studio/Shop published RPPCs as well as mass-printed (collotype) postcards. Collotypes were popular as the photo image could be tinted and printed in color. Smallhoff and Ennis dissolved their partnership in 1933, with Ennis continuing to operate the Mayflower Shop and Smallhoff operating a shop in Hyannis until he retired in 1942.

Another local photographer and postcard publisher was Stacy H.

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Monomoy Middle School Tour

Events at the

Double Feature Lecture**Halloween at the Atwood**

Enjoy what the Atwood has to offer!

Best Bake Sale in History



Atwood

Grub with the Grinch



Hearthwarming

Offer!

CHATHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Check out our
new collection
on our website

**Oral
HISTORIES****World War II** *(Continued from page 5)*

smaller forces committed. The worst B-29 mission, against Tokyo on May 25, 1945, cost 26 B-29 Super-Fortresses, 5.6% of the 464 dispatched from the Mariana Islands.

On average, 6,600 American servicemen died per month during WWII, about 220 per day. By the end of the war, over 40,000 aviators were killed in combat and another 18,000 wounded.

Total combat casualties were pegged at 121,867. The Army Air Force peak strength was reached in 1944 with 2,372,000 personnel, nearly twice the previous year's figure. Uncle Sam sent many of his sons and daughters (Ferry Pilots) to war with minimal training. Some fighter pilots entered combat in 1942 with fewer than 2 hours in their assigned aircraft. One Group Commander was often heard to say, "You can learn to fly your aircraft on the way to the target."

A future "Ace" said, "I was sent to England to die." He was not alone. However, they made it work! Perhaps the unsung success story of AAF training was the navigators. The Army graduated 50,000 during the war. Many had never flown out of sight of land before leaving for a war zone. Yet the majority found their way across oceans and continents without getting lost or running out of gas!

So, whether there will be another war like that experienced in 1940-1945 is doubtful with fewer current and future fighters and bombers giving way to tactical armed drones, attack helicopters, and deadly cruise missiles. But, just don't forget the part of history when men and women left the earth in 1,000 plane formations and fought major battles 5 miles high. They left a timeless legacy of heroism.

Votes for Women: 1920-2020

As Susan Ware notes in her book, *Why They Marched*, “the women’s suffrage movement stands out as one of the most significant and wide-ranging movements of political mobilization in all of American history. Among other outcomes it produced the largest one-time increase in voters ever.” And among those first-time voters were 16 Chatham women who registered to vote on August 26, 1920, the very first day they were eligible to do so.

After some seven decades of hard work and the constant perseverance of thousands of women, beginning with the Seneca Falls Convention of July 1848 and culminating with the ratification of the 19th amendment by Tennessee, women would finally have the right to vote in national elections. The US Congress had approved the 19th Amendment in 1919 but before it could become law it needed ratification by 36 states. Massachusetts was the 8th state to ratify it. And finally, all that remained was ratification by the state of Tennessee, which was the needed 36th vote. There was much opposition in the Tennessee legislature, but on August 18 the amendment squeaked through the Tennessee House by a vote of 49-48.

Another vote was needed because it lacked a clear constitutional majority of fifty votes in the 99-member House chamber. One unexpected representative changed his vote so that it wasn’t until August 24 that the vote was officially certified and two days later women nationwide were finally allowed to register. What a nail biter that was!

On that day, August 26, 1920, 16 Chatham women appeared before the Town Clerk and signed the register to vote. The first woman to do so was Edna Hardy, the head librarian, and following her were: Grace Vincent, Gladys Atwood, Helen Kendrick, Louise Nickerson, Edith Nickerson, Lotty Lovelace, Louise Vance, Ellen Perry, Gladys Atkins, Annie Shepard, Effie Hopkins, Mary Eldredge, Helen Hopkins, Gertrude Berry, and Mattie Kendrick.

Are you a descendant of any of these ladies?

But probably the most well known Cape Cod suffragist was Anna Howard Shaw (1847-1919) who lived for a time in Osterville. She was president of the National American Women Suffrage Association (NAWSA) from 1892-1904. Unfortunately she did not live to see the results of her lifelong work!



Written by Florence Seldin, Volunteer Manager of the Atwood Museum Book Shop and Tour Guide.



**Richardson
Studio building.**

Postcards *(Continued from page 7)*

Wentworth. The earliest record of him is in 1915 when the Barnstable Patriot mentions that he was visiting Dr. Worthing and moving some items from his Chatham studio to another location. Wentworth's shop was probably located in a building on Worthing's property abutting Chatham Bars Ave. A WWI-era postcard shows a building in this location with a prominent Kodak sign and a smaller "Art Shop" sign (some of Wentworth's postcards are labeled "Wentworth's Art Shop"). He published both RPPC and collotype postcards, including many of the Naval Air Station that was located in Chathamport during WWI. Wentworth may have been an aviation buff, as he published one of the first aerial-view postcards of Chatham, titled "Chatham, Mass., from a Seaplane" in 1919.

By the early 1920s, Wentworth was no longer operating his business in Chatham and it is likely that he sold his Art Shop to Harold T. Sawyer, as the Sawyer Art Shop was located in the same building on Chatham Bars Ave. Although Sawyer was raised in Chicago, he had family ties in Chatham. His maternal grandmother, Abbie Eldredge (Gould) Ames, daughter of Richard Gould, inspired the Sawyer family to vacation in Chatham, where Sawyer's parents eventually bought a summer home (423 Main St.) in 1890. The first mention of Sawyer Art Shop was in the Chatham Monitor in 1924, with ads for the shop appearing in the paper the following year. Unlike the previous photographers, virtually all of Sawyer's postcards were collotypes, and his ads sometimes included the slogan "our hand-colored post cards are famous." Like Smallhoff, Sawyer's shop carried art supplies and gift items, but photographic supplies and services predominated as was reflected in the name change to Sawyer Photo and Art Shop in 1926 and to Sawyer Photo Service in 1930. Sometime between 1931 and 1933 the business closed.

We are fortunate that many of the postcards, published by these photographers and others, have survived to this day. They give us a glimpse of what Chatham was like in the early part of the 20th century.

New Exhibits (Continued from page 3)

honor, commemorate, and remember with us.

The Atwood Museum exhibits will be opening for the season on May 22, Memorial Day weekend, and will remain open through the summer, fall, and part of the winter. The rest of the museum is available year round for research, rental space, special events, and private group tours.

The museum is located at 347 Stage Harbor Road, Chatham, MA, close to downtown Chatham.

Admission:

Members of Chatham Historical Society: Free

Adults: \$10

Students (ages 8-18): \$5

Children (ages 7 and under): Free

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CALENDAR

NEW EXHIBITS OPENING MAY 22, 2020

Sunday Lecture Series

March 22, 2020

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

April 26, 2020

Chatham's Dynamic Shoreline
Speaker: Ted Keon

May 17, 2020

The Rocky Road to Women's Suffrage
Speaker: Florence Seldin

August 23, 2020

CHS ANNUAL MEETING

**ENJOY VOLUNTEERING?
If so, the Atwood Museum wants you!!**

**For information and opportunities
Contact Kevin Wright: kwright.atwood@gmail.com**

OF

EVENTS

Historic House Tour

Saturday, May 16th

Check our website for details



History Weekend

Don't miss Chatham's History Bus Tour

June 12-14th

Check our website for details

Evening to Remember

Returns to the spectacular Sea La Vie

Saturday, July 11

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Check our website for details



Join us for our 3rd annual Pirates' Day

Arrgh! The Atwood Museum hosts another fun-filled family day.

Saturday, August 1st
11:00 am - 3:00 pm



CHATHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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