

CHEQUAQUET LOG



The Newsletter of the Centerville Historical Museum

www.centervillehistoricalmuseum.org

Winter 2009

Coming Events

Talk & Lunch
March 18th 11AM

Talk & Lunch
April 9th 11AM

Exhibitions
American Chair, Black Dress,
Vacationland
(See Dates Below)

A Fanfare Tea
April 25th 1PM

House Tour
June 24th

THE MUSEUM HAS A VISITOR

by Jean Desmond

In early February our Executive Director, Randall Hoel, was putting out the mail when museum member Gertie Gadfly walked past the Museum and hailed him. A conversation began and he invited her inside out of the cold to continue.

GERTIE GADFLY: I know you are Mr. Hoel, the director here, but we have not met before and I thank you for inviting me inside. I am Gertie Gadfly and I want to say you really do not keep the inside of this place a heck of a lot warmer than it is outside; I can see why you are wearing several sweaters. The Finance Committee should appreciate your frugality. By the way, the last time I was here—I came several times to see the political exhibits—I brought several friends and we had some pretty exciting conversations.

RANDALL HOEL: At this time of the year I work fulltime and various volunteers are engaged who might prefer it a bit warmer but don't complain. I remember some "high temperature" discussions during those exhibits and you were probably a participant.

GERTIE GADFLY: It's just good to get out and breathe the fresh air and when I

saw you outside thought I would tell you what I think about that Museum Wish List. You know last summer my grandson, a good kid, lived with me, got himself a job on a fishing boat. He didn't goof off too much, saved his money, and bought himself a computer and stuff down at that Perfect Purchase store for a lot less than the computer on your list. He told me all he would be able to do with it—pictures and stuff—and I think you should look into that kind of deal—sounds much better to me. Oh and can I call you Randy? After all, I'm older than you are.

RANDALL HOEL: Please do and I will call you Gertie if that is okay. Your grandson sounds impressive and his computer purchase sounds like a smart one that will meet his needs, but let's talk a bit about the museum's needs.

GERTIE: Well, what are all of those things on your list?

RANDY: The bottom line is we need to be professional so let's talk about how the \$5,000 figure in the Wish List breaks down.

GERTIE: I am listening.

See Desmond, page 2

Coming in spring

The American Chair 1740 - 1830

A look into the designs and styles of early American chairs

The Elegant Black Dress

Absolutely elegant, a bit mysterious and highly fashionable, the black dress was always in vogue

Cape Cod, Vacationland 1900 - 1940

Travel brochure, menus, post cards, placards, broadsides all speak of a bygone era of Cape Cod

Desmond, from page one

RANDY: The first part is computer “hardware” with approximate costs: two laptops, a *Dell Vostro 1510* (\$760) and a *Dell Vostro A860* (\$600). These are used for the different projects that go on in the museum such as Inventory (enabling us to work on the 3rd floor for example without first doing the job on paper), for lectures inside and outside the Museum, for the video presentation on or off site. The towers are *Dell Optiplex 760* with monitor (\$675) and *Dell E2009* with flat screen monitor (\$200) and represent the computers that store data in digital form.

GERTIE: Gee, that sounds like everyone having to get some kind of a box for TV.

RANDY: Yes, digital is everywhere. And the last hardware piece is the very important: a printer, *Dell 1320c* (\$300). This is a color laser printer and can save the Museum hundreds of dollars because we can do a professional job of printing just about anything we will need. We do more than the *Chequaquet Log* you know. We could do the post cards which we send to members reminding them of upcoming events, the rack cards (for hotels and inns) and we can design and print elegant brochures which we use to solicit tour and other groups.

GERTIE: Now wait a minute. You must have to pay an artist or somebody to make up those things and you just print them.

RANDY: Nope. Since I have experience in desktop publishing I can do all of that.

GERTIE: You mean on top of everything else you know and do, you’re a graphic artist? What a guy—you’re worth more money!

RANDY: Thanks Gertie! The remaining items needed are the software programs, which are really the brains of the system because they tell the hardware what to do. These are called *Pastperfect* programs, specially designed for museums, and the three programs needed range in price from \$300 to \$400 each. These programs would expand our ability to share our collection with Internet users and would enable us to show our entire collection to interested people in house. The *Microsoft Office 2007* business program (\$320) sounds more familiar to us: Word, PowerPoint, and all of the museum’s bookkeeping.

Lastly, the *Adobe Design Suite* (\$1,800) will allow us to do all publishing in house and approaches the quality of glossy magazines and catalogs, without paying \$60 per hour for the service.

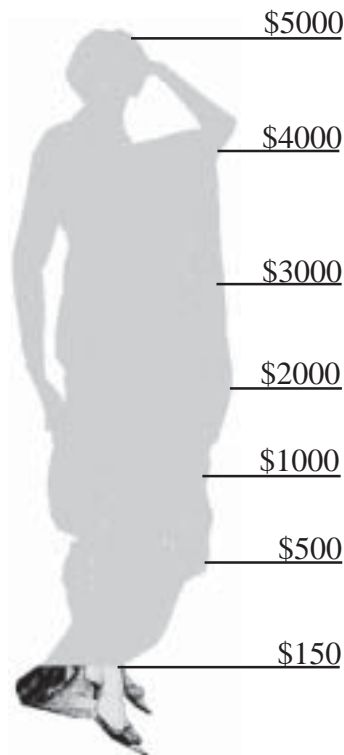
GERTIE: I’m overwhelmed—I’m really impressed, but maybe some members out there have these gismos you talk about and can let the museum use them. That could save money.

RANDY: Museum members have kindly offered to donate some used equipment to the museum but trying to put together a network of “odd” equipment is tough, because trying to use Studebaker parts with a Prius is just plain incompatible. To be able to put together and use new equipment will in the long run save money on tech support and on frustration.

GERTIE: You have convinced me. I wish I could provide this new system for you. I really do but I do want to make a donation to start the ball rolling and hope others will join in. I will send you a check for \$150. How’s that?

RANDY: The ball is rolling and we need a name for it. I think because you’re the first to donate, how about Gerthometer. You get it, Gertie and thermometer, like those fundraising thermometers.

GERTIE: Great idea and I’ll talk with some of my friends.



Forgotten Treasures

by Diane Brooke

Many years ago, when the large house in Centerville known as Fernbrook was being sold and the land divided into building lots, a friend and I wandered through the grounds. These were famous gardens in their day, designed by the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted, and we were looking for some sign of rare plantings. What we found, following an overgrown stream from the deserted duck pond through briars and undergrowth, was a Buddha. A secretive Japanese style Buddha, he sat atop a stone pedestal in his eternal posture of meditation, legs crossed in a lotus position with hands open in his lap. Sunlight filtered through the trees and fallen leaves were caught in his hands.

Fernbrook is now a gracious bed and breakfast. There are homes where the gardens once prevailed. The area around the Buddha has been cleared and he sits revealed, on private property. But I prefer to think of the Buddha as I first saw him, hidden, forgotten, with the patience of centuries in his posture.

There are many forgotten places and secret delights on the Cape. Some you can learn about at the Museum and some you hear about or discover on your own. Please share some of your discoveries with me at nepskid@gmail.com. We’ll print them in future Logs.

IN RECOGNITION OF THOSE WHO GAVE IN 2008, THANK YOU

2008 Annual Appeal

Joan D'Ambrosia
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Tolbert

Mr. & Mrs. Morris Ford
Thomas Lynch & Jennifer Longley
Mr & Mrs. Douglas Murphy
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Vincent

Jean Desmond

Everett Abbott
Christopher Babcock
Diane Brooke
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Mr. & Mrs. John Fahrenholz
Mr. & Mrs. John Felegian
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gill
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Phyllis Ellis Land
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Mannal
Joanne McAteer & Dick Verling
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Reed
Jean Scanlon
Carol Swartz
Hazel Warren
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wenger

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Mr. & Mrs. Paul Casterline
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Macallister

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Capelotti
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Fisher
Kalliope Garoufes
Dr. Charles Herberger
Ellen Ingram
Dianne Kelly

2008 Annual Appeal (continued)

Mr. & Mrs. Bertrand Lumms
Barbara Mackay
Elizabeth Miles
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Mulligan
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Nickerson
Dr. & Mrs. Edmund Sullivan

Mr. Clark Diehl
Joan Grover
Mr. & Mrs. Maxwell Money
Stephen Trimble

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Charlotte Besse
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Bogert
Dr. & Mrs. George Bovino
Peter Buffington
Judith Carpenter
Grace Carney
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Clark
Helen Connolly
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Gallo
Anastasia Marty
Mrs. Marcia Midwood
Dwight Miller
Mr. & Mrs. John Pendergast
Mr. & Mrs. Pio Petrocchi
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schulte
Grace Sweeney
Mrs. Hilda Whyte

3rd Grade History Program

Centerville Elementary Sch. PTO
Osterville Elementary Sch. PTO

Restricted Contributions

Christopher Babcock
Millicent Earls

Christopher Babcock
Judith Carpenter
Deborah Converse
Jean Desmond
Millicent Earls
Barbara Fahrenholz
John Felegian
Susan Hyland
Eugene Mulligan
Virginia Murphy
Scott Peacock
Royden Richardson
Ralph Tolbert
Donald Vincent

Unrestricted Contributions

Dr. G. Curtis Barry

Charles Goodwin
Nancy Hilmer
Mr. & Mrs. Royden Richardson

Mr. & Mrs. John Pendergast

Maria Eftimiades
Dianne Kelly
Mrs. Patricia Packer
Ethel Silverberg
Linda Hutchenrider

Memorial Donations

Chris Chi & Paul Warren
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Brown
Elna Nelson

Gifts in Kind

Christopher Babcock
Joyce Canniff
Judith Carpenter
Virginia Carothers
Joan D'Ambrosia
Jean Desmond
Marie-Pierre Dillenseger
Barbara Fahrenholz
Shirley Fisher
Charles Herberger
Jane Jackson & Bob Harding
Rita Kane
L. Michelle Law
Virginia Murphy
Jay O'Brien
Donna O'Hearn
Joan Reed
Peggy Rogers
Kay Shaughnessey
Fran Sullivan
Bonnie Wenger

Gifts to the Collection

Linda Clark
Millicent Earls
Mrs. Donald Ellis
Lois Goddard
Charles Herberger
Susan Hyland
Pat Keogh
Dr. & Mrs. Eben Johnson
Veni Lemos
Jane Sauro
Mary Stepita
Dr. Patricia Sydney
Fran Sullivan
Dr. Edmund Sullivan

Please Join us for a relaxing afternoon

A Fanfare Tea



*Reservations are required, so reserve early -
space is limited*

Saturday, April 25th, 1-3PM

Come enjoy a delightful high tea of homemade sandwiches, pastries, desserts and, of course, tea.

Our feature presentation will be the history of the fan, a look at several of the many exquisite fans in the museum collection and the "language of fans". The afternoon includes a narrative presentation, demonstrations and a raffle.

NAME(S): _____

TEL #: () _____ Email _____

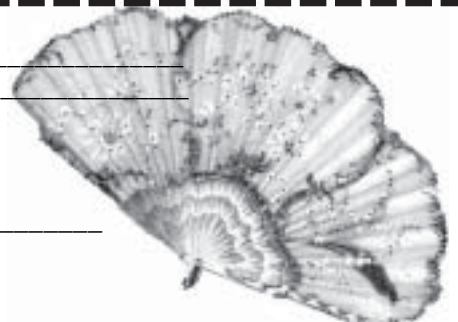
not a member, address and email may be included if you wish to receive updates on musuem activities

Number CHM Member(s) @ \$20 each: _____

Number of Non-member(s) @ \$25 each: _____ **TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$** _____

Please make your check(s) payable to:

Centerville Historical Museum, 513 Main Street, Centerville, MA, 02632



VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN



Manniquins waiting for new hair styles.

Museum volunteer Bonnie Wenger, owner of the Hair Loft in Centerville, comes to the museum for her third season to discuss the periods of the dresses with volunteer exhibit coordinators Barbara Fahrenholz, Joan D'Ambrosia and Judy Carpenter.

Gathering all the wigs from the museum, she heads off (pun intended) for the creative part of her contribution. After researching period hair-styles, she washes, straightens, then restyles each wig appropriate to the year of the dress on each mannequin.

Many visitors in the last two years have commented on the hair styles, which add realism and authenticity to the exhibit. Thank you Bonnie!



Bonnie making final adjustments and fitting the wigs.



MUSEUM EVENTS

March 18th, 11a.m. Presentation by Barbara Fahrenholz *The etiquette and protocol of 19th century mourning attire*. Barbara will be demonstrating and explaining the many stages of mourning attire using examples from the museum collection. After the presentation stay for lunch (bring your own). *free*

April 9th, 11a.m. A presentation by Dr. Ed Sullivan. Ed will be talking on many of the examples of historical ephemera from the museum collection. *free*

April 25th, 1p.m. *A Fanfare Tea* A presentation by Gail Vincent on the history, language and anatomy of the fan. *reduced fee for members*

TBA, June 2009, A presentation by Kathryn Kleekamp *Cape Cod and the Islands - Where Beauty and History Meet*, sharing the stories and artwork in her forthcoming book by the same title.

June 24 Biennial Centerville House Tour *Then and Now*. Come see unique and historically interesting homes. Tickets go on sale in May.

HOW COOL IS THE MUSEUM?

by Ralph Tolbert

In a next few weeks, the museum should have a new environmental control system, with \$70,000 of funding provided by the Town of Barnstable's Community Preservation Committee. How cool is that?

Currently only the Elna Nelson Room, where most of our fragile costume collection is stored, has a controlled climate year round. By this summer, the entire building will be fitted with new and efficient heating and air conditioning systems. Soon our collections will be better protected against damaging variations in heat and humidity whether they are in storage or on display.

Although the new systems are intended to benefit the collections, people will be more comfortable as well. So, in the future, we hope most everyone attending a packed lecture in the Ayling Room on a warm summer evening will think the museum's a pretty cool place.

AMERICAN CHAIRS 1740 - 1830



In progress: Displays of the coming exhibit, *American Chairs*

On exhibit will be twenty-two chairs from the museum's collection, all made and used between 1730 and 1840. Typical of many household chairs, several of these have gone through changes, particularly to their finish. Some have been painted that were originally not, and some have had the paint removed that originally were painted. (It is quite unusual especially for a chair to be in its original state after two hundred plus years.) Often the household 'fancy chair' would have started in the parlor or dining room only to be relegated to the kitchen after a newer, more popular chair style emerged and extra income became available to upgrade. It is interesting to note that America

inherited and adopted many of its furniture styles from abroad. The Windsor chair, for one example, migrated to the colonies in the mid-18th century. The American Windsor became hugely popular after 1770; this 'common chair' was light weight, strong and comfortable. It was inexpensive to make and always painted, first in green (at that time green wooden garden chairs were the fashion in Europe, hence emulated in the colonies) and later in black and red.

As furniture production techniques became faster and more efficient, the Windsor chair became the most popular and most produced chair in America well into the 19th century. Not surprisingly, the museum will be exhibiting five Windsor chairs of different styles: three 'fancy' and two 'common' chairs, all made before 1840.



WANTED — HISTORIC MATERIAL:

Do You Have What We Need? *by Ralph Tolbert*

Do you live in one of Centerville's old captains' houses or maybe some other house that's considered historic? Perhaps you acquired something that explains its history when you moved in. Or maybe you have a collection of old photographs or perhaps a master's log from one of the village's 19th c. coastal schooners. Is there anything in your attic that an antiquarian might get excited about?

The Centerville Historical Museum wants to expand its information about the houses, people, activities, artifacts and memorabilia of the village – all of the things that have made Centerville what it is today. Photographs, letters, reminiscences, property transactions, family albums and memorabilia: these could be pieces of the historical puzzle that would enable us to better understand how Centerville has developed and changed over time.

If you think your treasures would help to fill in some of the gaps in our knowledge of the town, we'd like to look at them. Perhaps you'd be willing to donate your significant material to our collection. Or, if you want to retain your keepsakes, we at least might like to copy or photograph them.

So look around and take inventory on your bookshelves and in your closets and attic to see if there's something interesting there. Please contact the museum if you have any material that could help us.

The Centerville Historical Museum
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Centerville, MA 02632
(508) 775-0331
www.centervillehistoricalmuseum.org

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HOURS:

Tuesday through Saturdays,
May 1 through December 12,
from 12:00 p.m. - 4 p.m.



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The newsletter of the
Centerville Historical Museum

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Ralph Tolbert, Ex-Officio
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Dr. Charles Herberger, Hon.
Director

OUR MUSEUM'S WISH LIST

Please consider donating these items or a contribution for the following:

\$125. Display pedestals, (materials only, labor for construction donated)
\$275. Outside kiosk (materials only, labor for construction donated)
\$300. Soft seat cushions for hard metal chairs (50 needed)
\$695. Museum environmental monitoring system data loggers.
\$5000. New museum technology systems (printer, computers, network
and wireless capable, laptop, monitors, software programs)

We wish to thank the following people for providing these wish list items:

UV window filter protection . . **thank you** Virginia (GeeGee) Murphy
New outdoor museum sign . . **thank you** Don & Margie Agnoli