

# CHEQUAQUET LOG



www.centervillehistoricalmuseum.org

The Newsletter of the Centerville Historical Museum

December 2006

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### SAVE YOUR GOOD OLD STUFF!

Cleaning out your attic, garage, or basement this winter? Please save your collectibles, antiques, small furniture and any other items (except clothing) in good condition for our annual yard sale in August, 2007.



## THE HUSTLE - AND BUSTLE - OF THE SEASON



BY JEAN DESMOND

"Does my bum look big in this?" This question, that still sends icy shivers down the backs of most western men, had a whole different meaning in the late Victorian era.

The bustle made the backsides of fashionable women look like the rear end of a horse, or so some critics thought. Perhaps the most curious western fashion of the last 100 years, bustles were believed to attract men by highlighting alluring portions of the female body.

The bustle was in style twice in the Victorian era: 1869 - 1876, and 1883 - 1899. Both periods had slightly different

shapes to the bustle that reflected its evolution and innovation.

In the 1850s and 1860s, women wore crinoline skirts that eventually evolved into gigantic cages that could barely fit through a doorway. For the upper classes by the late 1860s, the crinoline had nowhere to go except up, and when the new style made its debut it was ridiculed by women of lesser means. This class separation may have helped the adoption of the bustle by wealthier women



*(continued on page 3)*

## A Note of Thanks From Tom Lynch

### BY TOM LYNCH

Our volunteer luncheon during last month's Annual Meeting gave me a chance to thank many of you for your contributions to the museum. And Executive Director Randall Hoel did a fine job of individually recognizing volunteers. Randall has helped our museum to flourish in myriad ways. Much of this success has resulted from his ability to work well with the board of directors, volunteers and visitors.

A variety of improvements have made the museum more visible and active. The revival of The Chequaquet Log, our newsletter, lets members keep up to date with museum news, and our website, professionally maintained by John Donelan, makes us accessible on the Internet.

The establishment of the museum store has netted over \$4500 this year. Our growth this year was impressive, with dramatic increases in attendance, income and member-

ship. Attendance is up due largely to the fine exhibits put together by a dedicated crew of volunteers and board members.

Fifteen years ago Elna Nelson asked me to join the museum board. I served as Property Trustee, saving the old school bell from across the street and planting a time capsule, among other activities. Then as treasurer, first vice president and as president I have had a front row seat to watch our

museum grow considerably.

I am stepping away from the board to avoid any conflict of interest in my role as a member of Barnstable's Community Preservation Committee. The museum will be well served by incoming President Ralph Tolbert and a dedicated board of directors. To keep up the momentum of the past year, they will need you all to keep up your level of support and involvement.

Thank you for all you do.

# President's Corner

BY RALPH TOLBERT

The museum has just completed a year of great progress. Much of the credit for this must go to Tom Lynch and the leadership he provided during this period of growth and transition. And, of course, none of this improvement would have been possible without the outstanding job that Randall Hoel has done in his first full year as our museum director.

In the coming year we must continue this growth. The revised by-laws adopted at the Annual Meeting on November 14 placed great emphasis on the committees that serve such a crucial role in the activities of the museum. These committees need to function well in order to continue our development. We will need help organizing fundraising events, planning exhibits, improving our building, caring for our collections, building up our membership and welcoming our visitors, so I hope many of you who have not taken an active role in the past will become involved in the coming year.

The Centerville Historical Museum is a real asset within our village, just as Centerville is a special place on Cape Cod. Please help us bring even greater distinction to both. If you can contribute ideas, time or financial support to the museum in this next year, I hope you will.



# Donations, Contributions & Sponsors

## 2005 ANNUAL APPEAL

### AYLING LEVEL

Morris and Susan Ford  
Christopher Babcock  
Nick LaFlamboy  
Thomas Lynch & Jennifer Longley  
Bo Murdock & Jayne Scanlon  
Elna Nelson

### MARSTON LEVEL

Dianne Kelly  
Jean Desmond  
June A. Jones  
Constance McManmon  
Virginia Murphy  
Mary Quickle  
Jean Scanlon

Raymond Shannon  
Carol Swartz  
Ralph and Iris Tolbert  
Joanne Uckman  
Paul and Joan Casterline  
Maria Eftimiades  
Dr. Paul J. Canniff  
James and Helen Connolly  
Dr. Leonard Cullen  
Peter and Shirley Fisher  
Stephen Hanson  
Nancy Hilmer  
Dwight Miller  
Samuel Nickerson  
Stuart Reed

### PHINNEY LEVEL

David and Monique Crawford  
Arthur Bergles  
Charlotte Besse

Peter Buffington  
Grace Carney  
Linda Clark  
G. Kingman Crosby  
Millicent Earls  
Kalliope Garoufes  
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Bruce and Gael Gilmore  
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Elizabeth Ivins  
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Mildred White  
Thomas C. White  
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Edith Cahoon  
Patricia Hanson

## SPONSORS OF THE THIRD GRADE HISTORY PROGRAM

Enoch T. Cobb Trust ● Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank ● Rotary Club of Osterville

### 2006 RESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS

Richard, Jean & Gabby Rompala  
Morris & Susan Ford

### 2006 UNRESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS

Stephen R. Casey & Carlotta Casey Coyne Fund  
Dr. G. Curtis Barry  
Maria Eftimiades

### 2006 MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Samuel Nickerson  
Virginia Murphy  
Elna Nelson  
Mildred White  
Edith Richards  
Robbins Barstow

### 2006 ITEM DONATIONS

*Computers:*  
Decision Systems Inc. & Morris Ford  
*Computer & scanner:*  
John Donelan  
*Digital Projector, Printers:*  
The Davenport Companies & John Donelan

### Mannequins:

Tony Purbrick  
Macy's East & Donna Gibson  
Sposabella Bridal & Charleen Cohen  
*Office Desk:*  
William Murdock & Jayne Scanlon

### 2006 GIFTS TO COLLECTION

*1955 Coleman painting:*  
Frank & Helen Coombs  
*1885 Wedding Gown:*  
Virginia Kalat  
*1942 Wedding Gown:*  
Sandra Malita  
*1920s German Doll:*  
Bruce Phinney  
*1930s Bed Spreads:*  
Maureen McNulty  
*1950s Hats:*  
Virginia Murphy  
*1925 Pair of Blue Jays:*  
Millicent Earls  
*19th Century Candle Holder:*  
Elna Nelson  
*1900 Piano Scarf:*  
Nancy Hilmer

### NEW MEMBERS SINCE JULY, 2006

Karyn Bovino  
Margaret Pearlless-Casey  
Richard Childs  
Geoffrey & Deb Converse  
Joan D' Ambrosia  
Mary Beth Deschemes  
Tim & Maryann Fetscher  
Bernie & Susan Klotz  
Maureen McNulty  
Carol Mroczka  
Madeline O'Hare  
Rebecca St. Onge

### 2006 GOLF TOURNAMENT CORPORATE SPONSORS

LAND AMERICA  
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### HARBOR ONE CREDIT UNION

Names of the 50 businesses and individuals who sponsored a tee or contributed to our raffle and silent auction will be acknowledged in the next issue of the Chequaquet Log.

# Craft Workshops Off and Running

BY SHIRLEY FISHER

Ever wonder what happens in the room behind the tool display just off of the Maritime Gallery? It's the museum's Workshop Room.

Remodeled in 2006, this space is ideal for small workshops and classes. In a new venture for the museum, two day-long Sailor's Valentine Workshops were successfully held on August 17 and October 26. Designed

as basic skill-building for beginners, each student completed a shellcraft pin/pendant and an original seven inch sailor's valentine (sans the traditional octagonal wood box). It is fair to say that both the instructor's and students' expectations of creative results were exceeded.

Sandy Campbell of Centerville met with each group, explaining the construction of

the traditional sailor's valentine glassed wood box. Participants were Steve Bushney, Maggie Casey, Bess Coletti, Cindy Enrenreich, Terry Gills, Pat Kelly, Dottie Mackey, Margaret MacQuarrie, Sandy Perry, Shirley Powell, Barbara St. Onge, Kay Shaughnessy, and Rebecca Yeatts.

We intend to expand the number of workshops in 2007. Possibilities being considered

include scrimshaw, beading, intermediate sailor's valentines, basketry, bird carving, and decorative painting such as strokework or faux painting. Workshops will reflect the historical antecedents of today's American crafts. The 2007 workshops will be offered to members at a considerable reduction in price.

If you have any suggestions for future workshop topics or would like to teach, please contact the museum.

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## ...hustle and bustles

(from page 1)...since it let them show their prosperity because the garment required excess fabric and expensive embellishments.

The bustle provided even the skinniest woman with seemingly huge buttocks, which in turn caused the breasts to look larger. A description of an 1890s bustle from the University of Iowa Apparel and Textile Collection advertised "metal spring coils, cotton, and horse hair." Add that to the corseted waist and you have one sexy silhouette (Paris Hilton, take note).

By 1890 the bustle had gone out of favor as women embarked upon a more practical style of dress.

But not everyone forgot about the idea behind them, so to speak, and ladies took to wearing inflated rubber hips in order to look smaller at the waist. One drawback: a pin prick would cause the hip to deflate abruptly and leave the wearer lopsided.

The undergarment still surfaces as a costume from time to time, perhaps most famously in 1983 when Princess Diana wore a Klondike ensemble during a royal tour of Canada with Prince Charles when both were guests at the historic recreation of Fort Edmonton and the invitation requested "Dress semi-formal, Klondike Era."

Diana mischievously selected a dress with some history behind it. It had been worn in "Lilly Langtry," a BBC mini series in 1978. Lilly Langtry, an actress and beauty who had also visited Edmonton, had been a mistress of the Prince of Wales (Edward VII), a story that was familiar to Diana, and at this time Diana was also aware of Camilla Parker-Bowles, Charles's long-time mistress. Camilla's great-grandmother, Alice Keppel, had also been a mistress of Edward VII, and Diana impishly said that she "would not tell the palace" about the history of the dress.



**SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS:** Participants in the August 17 Sailor's Valentine Workshop display their finished work. Left to right are Becky Yeatts, Barbara St. Onge, Kay Shaughnessy (seated), Bess Coletti, Shirley Powell and Dottie Mackey.

The bustle inspired one admirer to pen this 1917 poem:

### The Return of the Bustle By Robert Stroud

How dear to my heart is the hump of the bustle,  
As mem'ries of childhood recall it again.  
Its movement kept time to the silken skirt's rustle  
And furnished an optical treat for the men.  
The bustle, the bustle, the fat, bobbing bustle  
That stuck out behind like a big, healthy wen.

The wide-spreading bustle they say is returning  
And soon will be with us, our vision to cheer,  
To gladden the hearts that so long have been yearning  
And looking for old-fashioned things to appear.  
The bustle, the bustle, let's get up and hustle  
And welcome the first one we see drawing near.

The bustle of old, like the hump of a camel,  
Adorned the fair maiden, her charms to enhance;  
But the new one hangs down, all her movements to trammel  
Like slack in the seat of a big pair of pants.  
But so it's a bustle, why care we a cussel?  
Let joy be uncorked and go on with the dance.



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