

CHEQUAQUET LOG

Newsletter of the **CENTERVILLE**
HISTORICAL MUSEUM

CHM is named #1 Hidden Gem Museum in Massachusetts.



Annual Holiday Silent Auction

**Tues to Sat, Dec. 2 - 6 open regular hours 12 to 4PM
and**

**Sunday, Dec. 7 from 2 to 6PM
during the Centerville Christmas Stroll**

Up to eighty retail and service donated items will be on display and ready for the Christmas season. This is a great place to holiday shop.

Come in and place a bid.

winning bidder can pick up items on Dec 7 after 6PM or Tues to Fri Dec. 9 to 12 only



A C A P E C O D N O T A B L E

EDWARD CLARK CROSSETT, LUMBERMAN, PHOTOGRAPHER

The photographer of the portrait photograph of Mary Lincoln ('our Miss Mary') which is on display in the entry to the Mary Lincoln house, has an interesting history. His talent as a photographer speaks for itself in this wonderful image he captured of the many sides to Mary's character.



Edward C. Crossett (1882-1955) was born and raised in Davenport, Iowa. After receiving his preliminary education at Davenport public schools, He received his B.A. from Amherst College in 1905.

Returning to Davenport, Edward went to work with the Crossett Lumber Co., which was founded by his father in 1899. Upon his father's death in 1910, he became the family's sole representative in the lumber business. He later becoming president in 1935. The Crossett Lumber Co. was one of the first in the country to recognize that good forest practices were good business. Beginning in 1922, it maintained a staff of foresters, trained scientifically to manage the company's forests. Edward built a vacation home in Wianno, Osterville and came regularly to the Cape.

During this country's participation in the First World War, Crossett served at the national headquarters of the American Red Cross in Washington, D.C., as director of the Bureau of "Chapter Production and also as director of the Department of Development. An honorary M.A. degree was conferred on him by Amherst College in 1955 in recognition of his years of work in the interests of conservation of forest resources and for his artistic interests. He was a collector of etchings and an outstanding amateur photographer, and he was active in the

early days of wireless and radio. He was a fellow of the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain and a member of the Photographic Society of America.

Crossett's photographic works are in the collections of the Brooklyn Museum, Photographic Society of America and the University of New Mexico Art Museum. His photographs have been exhibited across America in the Seventeenth New York International Salon of Photography, Eleventh Memphis Salon of Photography, Seventh Chicago International Salon of Photography, Cincinnati Salon of Photography, The 27th International Salon of Photography, Minneapolis Salon of Photography's Twelfth Annual Exhibition, to name a few.

From a story that came down to us by Mary, in 1944 E.C. Crossett asked her to sit for her photograph, Mary consented, but then wondered what to wear. As the car arrived to fetch her, she suddenly happened to think of her mother's wedding cape and bonnet. She promptly donned both and the resulting photograph was called 'Old Spice'. This image won Crossett many prizes in some of the exhibited mentioned above.



T R I B U T E

BEBE BROCK

On November 3, 2025, the Centerville Civic Association recognized Bebe Brock for her contributions to the community. The surname Crosby is woven into the earliest chapters of Centerville Village's history. Bebe is the fifth generation to maintain the family's historic homestead on Main Street. Her given name, Melvina, is one of family tradition—she is the fifth in her lineage to bear that name.

Bebe's roots reach deep into American history. Her ancestry traces back to the passengers of the Mayflower, including such notable names as John and Priscilla Alden, John and Elizabeth Howland, Miles Standish, Richard Warren and James Chiltern and his daughter Mary.

The first Crosby arrived in Boston in 1635 aboard the ship "Susan and Ellen." A century later, Jesse Crosby settled in what is now Centerville and built the village's first grist mill. Descendant Gorham Crosby, with his wife Sarah, lived on Main Street in a four-room Cape. In 1858, a nineteen-room hotel, built by Gorham's brother, James Crosby, replaced the Cape house and became the Crosby House. Gorham and his son, Aaron Crosby had many business ventures. The daily stagecoach, the only public transportation at the time, stopped right in front of the hotel, making it, F.G. Kelley's store and post office the center of Centerville's business area. In addition, the hotel became a gathering place for local town residents and hotel guests.



In 1844, Gorham bought Eli Hinckley's interest in the stagecoach, which ran every other day from Hyannis to Sandwich, thence connecting to Boston. In 1848, the railroad from Middleboro reached Sandwich, and stage traffic increased. Gorham entered into partnership with his brother-in-law, John F. Cornish. Later when the increase in passengers made it necessary to add a four-horse coach, Gorham employed his brother, Oliver Crosby, to drive one coach while he drove the other. In 1850, Gorham realized that the railroad's plan of coming to Hyannis in 1854 meant the days of the stagecoach were numbered and within a couple of years, sold his business. The stage coaches were seldom late. Once, Gorham was delayed when his horses saw Desire Sturgis's petticoat hanging from a bush, shied and overturned the coach. Obtaining a substitute coach, Gorham was late by fewer than 15 minutes!

Bebe has followed not only in the footsteps of her ancestors and grandparents but also her parents, Chuck and Melvina Herberger. Her father, Dr. Herberger, played an instrumental role in cataloging the museum's remarkable collection of plate glass photographic slides. His lectures on Centerville's village life left audiences inspired and enriched. His books continue to be studied by professional and amateur historians.

As a resident, museum volunteer, Board officer, well respected genealogist and community historian, Bebe stands as a trusted guardian of the village's heritage, admired for both her expertise and her devotion to preserving the past for generations to come. The contributions of the Crosby family affected not only the future success of Centerville but that of Cape Cod and nearby areas of Massachusetts. We are pleased and proud that our friend and fellow volunteer, Bebe Brock, has been honored with this award by the residents of Centerville.

VOLUNTEERING

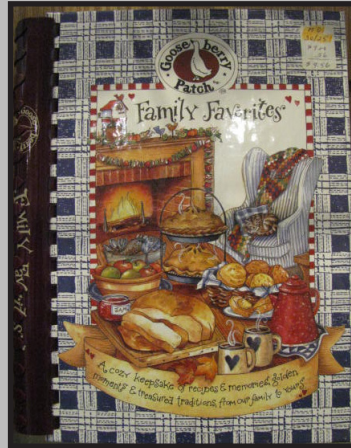
MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

A museum volunteer is a precious commodity for an organization such as ours. In order for this museum to continue its well known purpose and reputation, we need enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers to make it function well. There are many aspects needed to fill the role of volunteer, including a love of history, a willingness to interact with others and the public, and a sense of humor. Here is a snapshot of volunteers doing what they do best contribute their time and talents.



GIFT IDEAS FROM THE MUSEUM SHOP

COOK BOOKS



JEWELRY



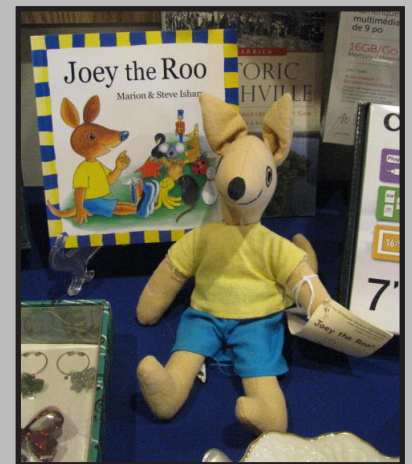
ART



CHINA



KIDS



WEARABLE



MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP

Dear Friend,

The Centerville Historical Museum is a special place and we would love to have you share us with someone else. We know you will agree we have many interesting things of offer.

GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP!



Happy Holidays

Looking for a stocking stuffer? Need something for someone who has everything?
Want to support local organizations? Give a gift membership to the
Centerville Historical Museum.

You can choose among various levels of membership, including individual, family
or patron. Your gift will be presented in one of these lovely boxes, hand-painted
by local artist Audrey Anderson.

To view the gift boxes and make your selection, please visit our gift shop before
December 13. It will be open Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 4 pm.

S U P P O R T E R S

Centerville Historical Museum BUSINESS MEMBERS

We wish to acknowledge our current business members
and ask you, our members, to support these businesses that support us.

1856 Country Store, Centerville	Fair Insurance Agency, Inc, Centerville
BK Real Estate Inc., Centerville	Four Seas Ice Cream, Centerville
Cape Cod 5 Saving Bank, Centerville	Hy-Line Cruises, Hyannis
Cape Cod Package Store, Centerville	Hydrangea Gallery & Gifts, Osterville
Capt. David Kelley House, Centerville	Joyce Frederick Art, Centerville
Carol Travers Lummus Prints, Barnstable	La Tanzi, Spaulding, & Landreth, Orleans
Daily Paper Restaurant, Hyannis	Long Dell Inn, Centerville
Daniel Lewis Architect, AIA, Centerville	Margaret and Carl Hill, Centerville
Daniel Schwenk, CPA, Osterville	Scott Peacock Building, Inc, Osterville
Dewey Gardens, Centerville	Talin Bookbindery, Yarmouth Port
E.J. Jaxtimer Builder, Inc., Hyannis	Twins Plumbing, Marstons Mills

Centerville Historical Museum Sustaining & Sponsor Members

Claire Bingham	Richard and Gwen Brown
Bebe Brock	Tim and Beth Herrick
Paul & Joyce Canniff	Anastasia Marty
John & Barbara Fahrenholz	John Meyer
Diane Growitz	Susan Rohrbach
Randall Hoel	Paula Schwenk
E.J. Jaxtimer	Nancy Bilezikian
Fran Lautenberger	Nancy Zeglan
Bernard Lebow & Barbara Guilfoile	
Daniel & Beth Lewis	
Carol Travers Lummus	
Bonnie O'lenic	
Robyn & Paul Simmons	
Patricia Talin	
Carol Ward	

Become a member, get the benefits, support a great museum.



See what we are doing: On You Tube, and Pinterest under centerville historical museum and on Instagram under centerville_historical_museum.

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