

CHEQUAQUET LOG

The Newsletter of the **CENTERVILLE**
HISTORICAL MUSEUM www.centervillehistoricalmuseum.org

August 2023 - Save the Date

Annual Vintage Car Show, Saturday, August 12, 8AM - 2PM, free
Arts, Crafts and Collectibles Sale, Saturday, August 12, 9AM - 2PM, free

3rd Annual Vintage Car Show

The 3rd Annual Antique and Vintage car show will feature those wonderful treasures from the past. Cars will be on display in the front and the rear of the Recreation building and outside the museum.



Arts, Crafts and Vintage Collectibles SALE!

The museum is hosting a gathering of local vendors to set up and sell their art, crafts and vintage collectibles for visitors. They will be outside and inside the museum. Come see what treasures they have to offer.



THOUGHTS FROM OUR WRITER

HOW THE LOWLY POTATO CHIP BECAME A FAVORITE SNACK

When the covid crisis hit, potato chip consumption went up. Way up. Which leads to the question; how did this popular snack come about?

It seems there was this Native and African American fellow named George Crum (born George Speck) who was a chef at a restaurant in Saratoga Springs, New York. One day, in 1853, wealthy Cornelius Vanderbilt was lunching at the restaurant when he sent some fried potatoes back to the kitchen because they were too thick. Crum, angry at the criticism, sliced the potatoes ultra-thin, refried them and sent them back to Vanderbilt as a prank. Turns out Vanderbilt loved these new style taters.

Thus was born Crum's "Saratoga Chips." By 1860, Crum had opened his own restaurant, which featured a basket of potato chips sitting on each table. Crum died in 1914, but his potato chips have gained a major spot on America's menu of snack foods. However, history tells us that Crum's chips were not the first. In 1817, a cookbook, "The Cook's Oracle," included a recipe for thinly sliced or shaved fried potatoes. In 1849, a newspaper reporter, also in Saratoga Springs, printed a story of a cook named Eliza whose reputation was growing due to her potato frying delicacies. No matter. The potato chip became a popular snack as its availability grew.

At first, local entrepreneurs made their own chips as there was no way to keep the sliced potatoes fresh. By 1895, one way to do so was to have a factory in one's barn with the cooked chips stored in barrels that were sold and delivered to local markets by horse-drawn wagon.

By 1926, a woman, Laura Scudder, from California, tried and succeeded in packaging the chips in wax-paper bags. These bags included a "freshness" date and boasted the product with a marketing slogan of "The Noisiest Chips in the World." A year later, a chef to Al Capone, who loved the chips and thought they would sell well in his many speakeasies, started mass-producing potato chips. The chips, by the 1930's, made in several factories, were packaged and sold across the country. They were now fried in oil and not lard.

The first national brand name for potato chips was Lay's, in 1961. To get the product quickly to the public, Lay's hired actor, Bert Lahr, the cowardly lion in "The Wizard of Oz," to say the catchy phrase, "Bet you can't eat just one."

Today, we Americans consume six and a half pounds of chips per person, per year and that expenditure adds up to a hefty ten billion dollars annually. This does not include other popular snacks such as tortilla chips or cheese puffs or pretzels. Highly criticized by health professionals for their starch and empty calories, which can cause obesity and hypertension, the chip makers have changed chip recipes to include less fat and salt. New products include sweet potato chips with sea salt, taro chips and lentil chips with tomato and basil.

The potato chip is probably here to stay. George Crum, our Saratoga Springs chef, had no idea his fried sliced potatoes would become one of the most popular edibles in America.

From the deck of newsletter writer Lois Lane
Volunteer



INTERESTING HISTORY

THE BARBIE DOLL HAS BEEN A FAVORITE FOR OVER SIXTY YEARS

The Barbie doll came about when the inventor noticed her daughter, Barbara, playing with a set of paper dolls. Barbara was talking to her easily torn paper playmates and trying to decide what she wanted to be when she grew up. An idea came to Uth Handler, Barbara's mother, and the first Barbie doll, named after her daughter, was an eleven-inch plastic girl doll with a waist and a curvy figure. It appeared in 1959.

Barbie was an instant sensation. The doll's popularity spread around the world. Hundreds of thousands were sold in the first year. Mattel, the company that made the Barbie doll, scored extraordinary profits.

Barbie has continued her popularity. Her looks have changed but have remained highly stylized with each passing year. By 1961, after customers wanted more, Barbie introduced her boyfriend, Ken, named after Uth Handler's son. Ken was an inch taller than Barbie. Two years later, Barbie's best friend came on the scene. Her name was Midge. One year later, Skipper, Barbie's little sister, joined the entourage.

In 2021, 86 million dolls linked to the Barbie collection were shipped worldwide. The popularity of these rather insipid plastic toys was because they were simple enough to allow little girls to dream. The dolls with their changeable outfits and almost indestructible plastic bodies were both the materialistic and idealistic idea of fantasy-for a price.



Barbie and her fellow dolls had many critics, but her inventors were smart enough to allow her to move with the times. She became progressive politically. In 1968, Mattel introduced a normal-sized Black doll in a swimsuit. By 1980, the Black Barbie was on toy store shelves.

Eventually, Barbie appeared in power suits that could take her from the boardroom to a Broadway play. A few years later, and ever since, Barbie began running for President of the United States. Over the course of sixty or so years, Barbie has had more than 250 careers. A Barbie movie was made with human actors. It has received good reviews.

Though outfits changed and several models of Barbies captured the moves toward diversity, civil rights and feminism, the original idea of beauty stayed about the same, that of a white blonde. Ken went through several career changes, including an astronaut, an Olympic athlete, a dog trainer, a dentist and a singing sensation. Besides the blond, blue-eyed Ken, Mattel also brought out a Black Ken, a Hispanic Ken and a cool dude Ken. However, cool Ken later bit the dust as it did not gain many followers.

Barbie is still Barbie. To a little girl, this toy allows her to be anything. Although she still exhibits some popular traits of the 1960's, she is always looking to the future. Barbie was way ahead of her time in 1965. She appeared as an American astronaut then. Sally Ride, the first female astronaut, went into space in 1983. This was a first time for a Barbie to be ahead of the world's progress. Yet, she has never gone off message; to show the world and little people what might be.

V O L U N T E E R P R O F I L E

AT NINETEEN KELLY McCARVILLE IS A FRESH FACE AT THE MUSEUM

On a Wednesday afternoon one is likely to see a young woman at the museum. She comes to join several others in an upstairs nook. She and the others are one of two groups of antique clothing restorers, a necessity for keeping the museum's collection of fragile and irreplaceable clothing, some dating back to the eighteenth century, in excellent condition.

The museum's antique clothing restorers meet each week, one group on Tuesdays and the other on Wednesdays, to patiently mend tiny tears in clothing, to put netting behind old silk that can easily split and to patiently restore tiny jet beads as well as seams and linings. They are skilled at what they do and their efforts to help maintain a clothing and hat collection are truly remarkable.

Kelly McCarville is a Wednesday sewist. She is nineteen. She is currently working on a 19th century skirt, using netting sewn on the inside of the skirt to help keep stationary, holes, possibly from wear and tear or long ago moths or mice, that should not be there. She is currently the museum's only teenage volunteer. Kelly, who has dark brown hair, a flawless complexion and a beautiful smile, has been coming to the Wednesday sewing group from Sandwich for about a year. It was her mother who saw a notice on Facebook about the need for clothing restorers at the museum and thought her daughter should give it a try.



Kelly is not a native Cape Codder, having been raised mainly in Arizona and other areas of the US, though other family members do reside on the Cape. Presently she is pursuing her education online through Arizona State University, with a concentration in Anthropology and Art History. She is still unsure about career aims but is tending toward working either in museums or other similar atmospheres. She especially enjoys doing research in both of her fields of study.

"I love history," she says. "We can all learn a lot from history and about the past of people."

Besides her sewing skills, Kelly likes to crochet and to knit. Currently she is crocheting sweater vests for both friends and family. She is also crocheting "a sort of" tote bag for a friend that features hearts in the pattern.

Kelly is happy to work with her Wednesday sewing group. She thinks the volunteers at the museum help make it special. She says she likes to see the museum's displays and is amazed at the cleverness and thoughtfulness involved as they are put together. She also states that working with other experienced clothing restorers has taught her about several creative methods and materials to use to solve the problems of old and delicate clothing.

When she is finished repairing her present project, the skirt, she hopes to choose one of the museum's women's dresses, perhaps from the 1860's. Wednesday afternoon sewing sessions are something she looks forward to, but she also relaxes with reading, hiking and camping. A young woman, with so much ahead of her, is appreciated here at the Centerville Historical Museum. Her efforts are recognized and applauded. Well done, Kelly.

COLLECTION HISTORY

THE MUSEUM DOES NOT HAVE BARBIE DOLLS IT DOES HAVE MORE THAN EIGHTY OTHERS

Does the Centerville Museum have dolls in its collection? The answer is a resounding yes. The museum's doll collection numbers about eighty. Some are tall and some are small. All have a variety of features, clothing, materials and size and all are charming and sweet.



There are four dolls that have no date of manufacture. There are thirty-three dolls in one category alone; each represents a different country. One doll dates to 1867, one of the older ones in the museum's collection. She is three and a half inches in size. She is made entirely of bisque, an unglazed porcelain, and has jointed arms and legs, a painted face, blue glass eyes, yellow braided hair and hand-stitched underdrawers and dress.

Three dolls, date from 1885 to 1890. One is two feet tall, has a bisque head, brown eyes and wears a white dress. The second is six inches high, with a porcelain (glazed) head, black molded hair, leather arms, an ivory silk gown and pink shoes. The third has a China (shiny porcelain) head, short black curls, a cotton stuffed body, leather arms, legs and boots, a plaid dress and a red hat.

Only one doll is dated 1910, made in Germany. She is clad in a brown dress, has blonde human hair, blue eyes and an open mouth with four teeth. The 1920's dolls number six. They all have bisque heads, one is named Jean, another has a crocheted dress and teeth. A third has blond, braided hair and is dressed in a colorful peasant dress and scarf.

There is both a George Washington and a Martha Washington doll, each made by Emma Clear, known for her matte finish on her dolls' faces. Both are adorned in handmade silk and lace. Another doll hails from Kopplsdorf, Germany, and is numbered. It is beautifully dressed and has a leather body. A 1914 doll, made by doll head maker Armand Marseille, has human hair. There is also a 6" baby boy clothes pin doll, c. 1900, in a crème christening gown and bonnet. He has wire arms and a hand painted face.

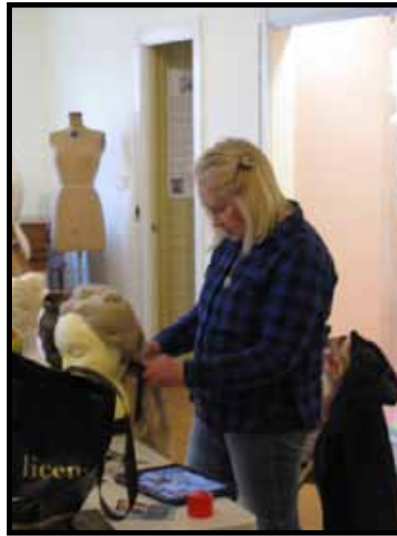
There is a topsy-turvy doll, from the 1920's, with a head at each end. Its theme is Little Red Riding Hood. It is fourteen inches high. Another unique doll has a knit body, is undated, but features an outfit consisting of a black Abaya with gold Arabian coins, green pants, red shoes and red lips and nail polish.

There is one doll clothed in a wedding dress which was made to match the 1888 adult wedding gown. She is 26 inches tall and her hair is pulled back in a bun. She is wearing a white silk dress, gloves and white heeled shoes. Another one of a kind is a celluloid boy doll, c 1930. He is in a British 'Bobby' policeman uniform, his hands in yellow leather gloves and is seventeen inches high. He wears black patent leather shoes.

Centerville's museum houses about 18,000 historical items. Among them is a unique collection of antique and older generation dolls from the early 1800's on, each worth preserving and seeing.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



museum volunteering

Enjoy the camaraderie with others - Help us support a great museum.

Museum Guides

Lectures

Event Planner

Exhibits

Collections

Conservation

Gallery Talks

Decorating

Social Media

Education Programs

Volunteer Coordinator

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Research

Silent Auction

Website



do you have a talent or interest we have a place for you

S U P P O R T E R S

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and ask you, our members, to support these businesses that support us.**

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