

CHEQUAQUET LOG

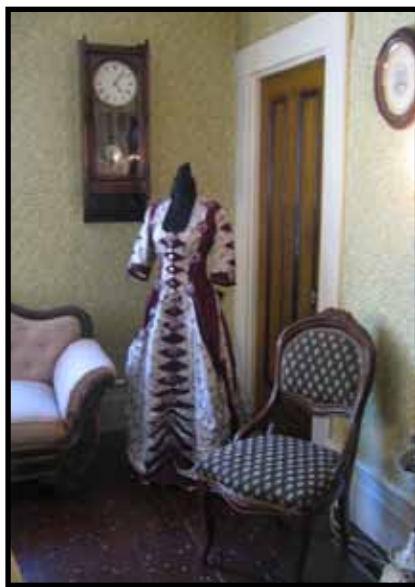
The Newsletter of the **CENTERVILLE**
HISTORICAL MUSEUM www.centervillehistoricalmuseum.org

SOME NEW IDEAS, A FEW DIFFERENT ACCENTS AND THE CLARK LINCOLN ROOM EXCELS

Clark Lincoln's dining room in his home, (now part of the museum), built in 1854, was small and somewhat ordinary. Paint spatters on the floor, done by design, and plain wooden doors with appealing paint patterns on them, gave visitors an eye as to what a less than wealthy family used, when one who could not afford imported floor rugs or significant Victorian décor in it.

Until recently, an etagere with local Sandwich glass, Victorian tables, a handmade cabinet and a small davenport graced the Lincoln dining room. The look was pleasant, the center table set for afternoon tea, but it was time to change the room.

Voila, our wonderful volunteers swooped in to bring a fresh look to the room. Diane Spencer, Barbara Fahrenholz and Gail Vincent researched, explored, exchanged ideas and tried several different approaches to revitalize this exhibit room, but they still sought to represent a dining room that kept the look of what was typical in Centerville in the 19th century.



The etagere has been moved from a corner to a better position along a wall. On it Staffordshire transfer ware china has replaced the previous glass ware and it grabs a visitor's attention. An octagonal table sits in the center of a small rectangular floor rug, the table set with colorful dishes for a meal and enhanced by a fringed tablecloth. White lace curtains grace the windows allowing outside suffused light. The davenport is now adorned with a lovely silk throw, adding more depth to the room, and giving it a warmer atmosphere.

Altogether the look is brighter and the new accents seem to lighten the heavy pieces of the day to the extent that they look comfortable, a difficult task with Victorian furniture. Most of the furniture adheres to the Victorian period. A Regency rectangular table was placed in the center of the room at first, but the style was too much and too large for the ambience of the setting.

There are now two mannequins in place, plus an armless pattern covered chair. One mannequin, dressed in a handsome maroon dress was in the previous room's décor, but her new position makes her style of gown stand out better. The second dress's pale cream color, gauzy material and beautiful design truly captures the eye. The look makes the entire room come together somehow. The Lincoln dining room is so much more than a family dining room. It has a presence. It is comfortable, lovely and put together tastefully.



Redoing or upgrading for a new look is not easy. A good amount of time was spent thinking up various combinations while trying to match them with a myriad of items in the museum's collection. More than once, something was found, dug out of its storage box, carried down from the attic ever so carefully,

only to be found wanting. Nope, not right, let's go back and see what else we can come up with. Putting together this exhibit took a few weeks. The new and fresh look is definitely worth all the efforts of our talented and hard-working volunteers with a mission and a wonderful accomplishment of that mission. Come see. You'll like it.

I N T E R E S T I N G H I S T O R Y

HOW AMERICA BECAME THE PEANUT BUTTER CHAMPION OF THE WORLD

As a national staple in this country, peanut butter is practically sacrosanct, but the Incas were the first to grind peanuts a few thousand years ago. Sorry, guys. But wait, an American doctor, nutritionist and cereal maker, John Harvey Kellogg, was the first to boil peanuts and grind them into a paste, which he did in 1895 for his patients with various ailments in a Michigan sanitarium. Kellogg believed that plant-based foods were easier to digest than meat.

A year later, Good Housekeeping magazine encouraged women to grind their own peanuts and spread it on bread for an inexpensive snack or meal. Within a few years, machinery invented by one of Dr. Kellogg's own sanitarium workers, Joseph Lambert, allowed for a better product and cheaper prices in nut and peanut butters. Soon advertisers claimed that a dime's worth of peanut butter contained six times more energy than a steak—a claim later debunked.

In World War I, peanut butter products were heralded as great substitutes on Meatless Mondays due to meat rationing. Tubs of peanut butter were sold to grocers, but each tub had to be stirred frequently, a big drawback, due to oil separation. That problem was solved in the early 1920's when a chemical process known as partial hydrogenation was invented by Joseph Rosefield. Peanut oil, which was at room temperature, was converted into a semisolid or solid at the same temperature and could then be stored in warehouses and on shelves almost indefinitely. From this invention, national brands such as Skippy, invented by Rosefield, appeared. Simultaneously, sliced bread, also introduced in the 1920's by a St. Louis baker, hit the marketplace and PB&J's became a national hit since kids could make their own sandwiches.

Peanut butter appeared in Europe during World War II when it was shipped to American forces overseas. Though not accepted as a food source on the continent at the time, sales have grown since the end of the 1940's. Expatriots craving their beloved sandwiches, found peanut and nut butters and sliced bread in military base stores. Today, PB&J's have overtaken the beloved jam and bread in Britain.



Recently, with the Covid pandemic, peanut butter has become a part of the virus's smell test. Both symptomatic and asymptomatic people complained of a loss of smell as a sign of the disease. A test was developed using peanut butter, which has a familiar odor. Every person in the study who reported a severe loss of smell using peanut butter later tested positive for Covid.

George Washington Carver, trained as a botanist, is largely responsible for the cultivation of the peanut in America. Cotton's cultivation in the south stripped the soil of its nutrients, thus leaving it almost worthless. Carver's research found peanut and sweet potato crops replenished depleted soil. Countless farmers and sharecroppers were saved from destitution with his important discoveries.

Today, the average American child is said to eat 1,500 PB&J's before graduating high school. Cheers to the lowly peanut and its impact as one of our nation's leading food cravings.

V O L U N T E E R I N G

A VOLUNTEER AND LONG STANDING MEMBER

Jean Dunham Scanlon is an icon at the Centerville Historical Museum. For years, Jean has taken part in numerous museum events, faithfully volunteered and relayed her personal history of the good old days of almost a century ago.

Jean, born in 1922, (soon to celebrate her 99th birthday) moved to Centerville with her parents and siblings in the 1920's. At first the family home was a tent. Mr. Dunham found work in the landscaping field with Charles Lincoln Ayling, head of John Hancock Insurance and board member of many local organizations. After renting a house for a short time, a modest home was purchased for the growing Dunham family, only to be lost in the stock market crash of 1929.

Jean's primary school bus was a horse and wagon. She liked school and she liked her teachers. She did well in all six grades there. In fact, all her schooling was beneficial and she was captain of her field hockey team and played basketball and softball in high school.

A desire for further studies led Jean to a teachers' college in Hyannis. However, World War II interrupted her plans after three years. Not wanting to stay home, she learned there were women's jobs at an aircraft factory in Hartford, CT. She moved there and was hired as a messenger girl. Soon after she found a better job at the Coates factory, a maker of, among other things, machine guns. At Coates, while studying metallurgy, an opportunity arose for her to join the Marines. Having obtained permission from her father (she was not yet 21), off she went to Cherry Point, NC and other locations for boot camp and a weather course. As a trained weather person, she flew in planes to predict weather for pilots, over both land and sea, in storms or clear skies. Interestingly, U.S. Atlantic Ocean beaches were patrolled by security men on horses and air control towers were run by women.



By October of 1945, the war was over. Jean, now discharged from the military, signed on for the GI Bill and, with a girlfriend, went to Perdue University to earn a Bachelor of Science degree, then on to Simmons College in Boston for a Medical Technology course. But a career was not in the cards for Jean. At Perdue, she had met and was engaged to Wayne Scanlon, a Ph.D. candidate in physics. After a wedding at the Old South Church in Boston, the couple moved to Washington, D.C. for Wayne's career. Jean stayed home and raised three children.

Cape Cod beckoned. With Wayne's retirement, the couple decided to find a home on Long Pond. Now, looking back, she realizes how growth and new inventions had changed Centerville. Electric and telephone poles lined streets and crystal sets gave way to radios. Dirt roads were paved over and there was a new sewer system. Not too long ago, neighbors still kept horses, chickens and cows for fresh milk. Ice blocks were cut from Long Pond in winter. A few elderly sea captains lived nearby, but the salt vats and shipbuilding sites had disappeared.

Jean had and has many friends in Centerville, among them Charles Ayling, Mary Lincoln and Evelyn Crosby. Jean Scanlon's words have enlightened us all for almost a century of memories.

FROM THE COLLECTION

THE FUN OF LOOKING THROUGH INFANT BOX 5

A fun thing to do at the museum is to open a box and peek at what is inside. Today's look brings smiles of delight at the infant christening dresses that range from 1820 to about 1940; a lovely way to see in one viewing how these particular clothes changed over the years.

First a bit of history. For centuries, newborns were swaddled in cloth for the first few months in the belief that tight binding kept an infant's spine and limbs straight as he or she grew. By the 19th century, that idea slowly gave way to freedom of movement in all stages of babyhood.

Following dictates from the past, christening dresses probably appeared around the 3rd or 4th centuries, when baptismal ceremonies first began in the church. For the event, special clothing was worn by the newest member of the family and a celebration was held for the occasion. The tradition continues to hold importance today.

In our Box 5, the oldest infant christening gown shows us how, in both daily and religious occasions, fashion was paramount. Our 1820's treasure is almost an exact copy of an adult woman's chemise dress, which continued the Regency or Empire style that began shortly before Napoleon Buonaparte's rise to power. Like his or her mother (babies, boy or girl wore a unisex outfit), this white cotton long gown is simple in style and accents. Short strings fasten both at the neck and at the back of the gown and the neckline is squared. The sleeves are short and puffed and the skirt is long and gathered at the high waist. There are no buttons or hooks and eyes and no lacy trim for adornment. It is sweet and plain and entirely handsewn.

c. 1810



By the mid-Victorian era, white or ivory are the colors for a christening dress. Again it is worn by both sexes and follows that of the female style of the day. The Empire waist continues to influence with a high waist, but there is more material and an inverted V falls down the front of the gown. Lace is used in abundance and embroidery has made its entrance. There may be a collar and the sleeve may be short or longer. As the Victorian decades continue the waist drops, tiny buttons replace hooks and eyes and the lace trim and embroidery become ever more prominent. Satin, lace and silk are used along with cotton cloth. Machine stitching has been used for almost every facet of the gown.

c. 1910

By 1940 and into today, styles again have changed in christening outfits, although long gowns, many handed down through the generations, remain popular. A shorter gown has appeared. What is different is there is no following of the adult female fashion. The heavily embroidered and laced Victorian beauties have given way to tiny lace edging at neck, sleeve and hem or smocking. There are now dresses for girl infants, but new is the appearance of boys' outfits, with either a two-piece shirt and

short pants style or a one piece that features a tiny collar, back buttons and puffy body that ends at the top of the leg with a cloth covered elastic closure.

A peek in a box shows that infants in their special christening outfits were heralded for surviving birth, for a welcome into the family and for receiving their first blessing in church.

Centerville Historical Museum BUSINESS Supporters

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

1856 Country Store, Centerville

Adrienne's Hair Loft, Centerville

BK Real Estate Inc., Centerville

Cape Cod 5 Saving Bank, Centerville

Cape Cod Package Store, Centerville

Cape Cod Retirement Realty, Centerville

Capt. David Kelley House, Centerville

Carol Travers Lummus Prints, Barnstable

Centerville Pie Company, Centerville

Coachlight Carpets, Centerville

Daily Paper Restaurant, Hyannis

Daniel Lewis Architect, AIA, Centerville

Daniel Schwenk, CPA, Osterville

Dewey Gardens, Centerville

E.J. Jaxtimer Builder, Inc., Hyannis

Fair Insurance Agency, Inc, Centerville

Four Seas Ice Cream, Centerville

Hanlon's Shoes, Hyannis

Isaiah Thomas Books, Cotuit

Hy-Line Cruises, Hyannis

Joyce Frederick Art, Centerville

Long Dell Inn, Centerville

Mr Plumb-Rite LLC, Centerville

Scott Peacock Building, Inc, Osterville

Talin Bookbindery, Yarmouth Port

The Old Hundred House, Centerville

Twins Plumbing, Marstons Mills

Zoe & Co., Hyannis



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

website: www.centervillehistoricalmuseum.org

P H I L A N T H R O P Y

SUSTAINING SUPPORTER: How you can help us!

Please consider becoming a Sustaining Supporter. Someone who sustains is one who stands, endures and nourishes another. Our museum needs more people who will do just that and stand with us as we preserve and interpret our shared history. Become a Sustaining Supporter of the museum for as little as \$20 per month. Relying on predictable monthly support will enable us to plan with much greater certainty how to provide a place where the past and present meet the future.

We encourage you to make monthly contributions as a Sustaining Supporter. Please use the donor cut-out below. As a Sustaining Supporter you receive all the benefits of Sponsor membership and more.

SUSTAINING SUPPORTER Yes, please charge my credit card or debit card with a per month gift of:

\$15 \$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 Charge my: _____ Card

Name on Credit Card _____

Address for Card _____

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Credit Card Charge, Please Sign Here _____

- I prefer to send a monthly check.
 Please change my current membership level to Sustaining Supporter.
 Please keep my membership as it is, and add me as a Sustaining Supporter.

WITHOUT A HERITAGE, EVERY GENERATION STARTS OVER.

PLEASE PUT THE CENTERVILLE HISTORICAL MUSEUM IN YOUR WILL

After providing for their families and loved ones, museum members and others may want to put the Centerville Historical Museum in their wills, thus helping to assure the long-term future of this museum. Such bequests are free of estate tax and can substantially reduce the amount of your assets claimed by the government. You can give needed support for the Centerville Historical Museum by simply including the following words in your will: *"I give, devise and bequeath to The Centerville Historical Museum, 513 Main Street, Centerville MA 02632 (insert amount being given) to be used to support the programs of the Museum."*

It is recommended that a lawyer help in drafting or amending a will. For other bequeathing options, call us and we will send our brochure that covers all the various options available. Thank you.

NOT A MEMBER - please join, ALREADY A MEMBER - how about giving a gift membership*

NAME: _____ TEL: _____

ADDRESS: _____ EMAIL: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ (please print)

Check One - all memberships are annually

INDIVIDUAL (\$35.00) _____ DUAL/FAMILY (\$45.00) _____ PATRON (\$80.00) _____
BENEFACTOR (\$125.00) _____ BUSINESS (\$150.00) _____ BUSINESS PLATINUM/SPONSOR (\$200.00) _____

Please charge membership to: (circle one) VISA MASTERCARD AMEX

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature: _____

* We will send an acknowledgement to them of your gift membership.

Mail membership to: *Centerville Historical Museum, 513 Main Street, Centerville MA 02632*