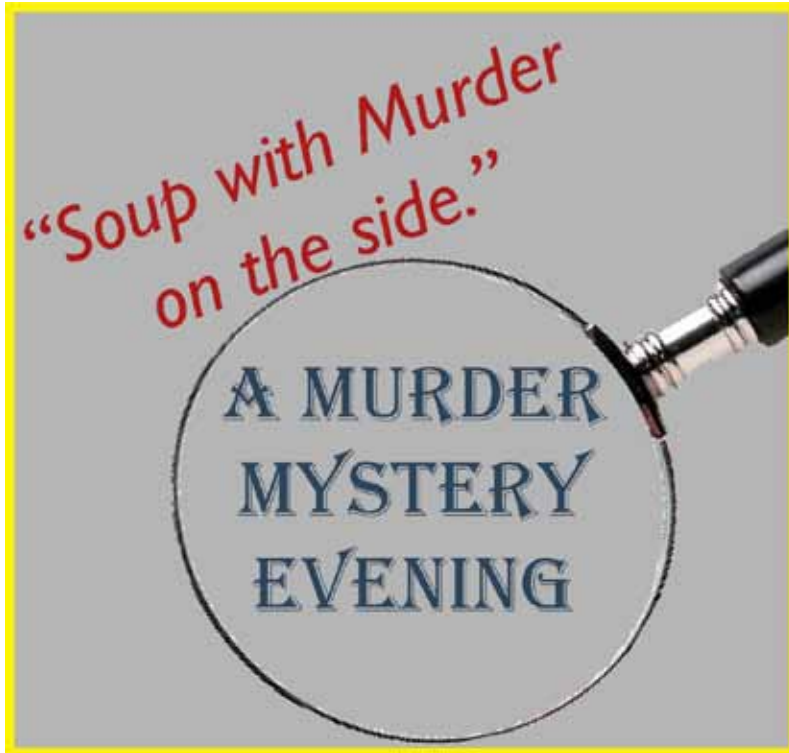


CHEQUAQUET LOG

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



Previous Murder Mysteries at CHM

2021 Murder Mystery Evening was SOLD OUT
Murder at Centerville's Mary Young Theater

2022 Murder Mystery Evening was SOLD OUT
Murder in Centerville's Post Office

2023 Murder Mystery Evening Tickets Available NOW
Murder at Centerville's Florella Kelly Sanitarium

Seats are going fast, sign up today!

3rd Annual Murder Mystery Fund-raiser Evening

IN THE SOUP

Murder Mystery Evening *It's happening again!*

It's not murder....yet. We're all new patients at the internationally- acclaimed Florella Kelly Sanitarium for Healthy Living in Centerville Massachusetts. It's October, 1920. We've come here to be cured of our illnesses but our leader, Dr. Cohog, has received some letters. Many letters. All death-threatening, all signed, "Anonymous". Dr. Cohog has hired Miss Tweed, the famous private detective, to find out who this letter-writer is and have him/her arrested. Will you help herbefore it's too late? It may be too late already.

Appetizers, soup, salad, rolls, wine, beer, dessert with murder (?) on the side.

Two performances:

Friday, October 13th at 6PM OR Saturday, October 14th, 6PM.

There will be a sit-down dinner with accompanying libations starting at 6pm, murder mystery follows at 7pm.

Reservation required before October 3rd. 508/775-0331

\$60pp members; \$70pp nonmembers.

P A S T E V E N T S

CENTERVILLE'S OLD HOME WEEK BROUGHT MANY VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM



Saturday, August 12th was a good all-around day. Blessed with bright and sunny weather, the last day of the Old Home Week saw numerous summer visitors walking Main Street and attending the events put together for them as well as locals.

A vintage car show, complete with spiffed up shiny antique and vintage autos caught the attention of nearly everyone. A booth selling lottery tickets was busy. There was a coffee and donut tent and a grill with grilled hamburgers providing free

refreshments to visitors. The South Congregational Church held an outdoor event on its front lawn. Outside the museum, vendors had items for sale and strollers stopped by to check them out before coming into the museum to discover several more art and craft fair tables in the Ayling Room. Sales were brisk.

Although the major emphasis was on the arts & crafts for sale, visitors found the museum's gift shop had many pleasant surprises and a nice number of sales were rung up there, too.

Aside from the craft fair tables, visitors were able to take tours of the museum accompanied by tour guides, for a small fee. One of the most interesting things one hears from visitors to the museum is the size and scope of what this modest building has to offer. Most everyone is amazed at the number of exhibits on view, plus the variety of historical subjects in its dozen or so exhibit rooms. They also comment on how well a particular display is put together. Visitors on Saturday were taken back in time by such themes as a speakeasy, a Victorian era young girl's birthday party, an eighteenth-century parlor, capes and capelets, and clothing styles from the 1890's through the 1920's. The World War I's display was especially commented upon, as was the brand-new Japanese Ukiyo-e print collection.

Younger visitors enjoyed seeing the 1860 school room. They were surprised to learn that many left-handed children were forced to learn penmanship using their right hands. Other lefties were seated in a separate row of desks put aside especially for them.

Centerville's Old Home Week allows the community to show off proudly what it has to offer. Visitors have a chance to walk along the tree-lined streets, learn about the former primary school across the street from the museum, visit the 1856 General Store and view the well-kept homes, many built for the sailors and captains of Centerville's coastal trading ships way back in the day, which, along with its prosperous farms and other small businesses, allowed Centerville to prosper.

All in all, the sunny day, the new and repeat visitors, the individual art and craft displays, museum tours and the perfectly groomed vintage and antique automobiles came together to secure another successful end to Centerville's Old Home Week.

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

RILEY MARTH WAS AN INTERN AT THE CHM THIS SUMMER

Volunteers at the museum are especially appreciated as they are tasked with several ways to help it run smoothly. They can be docents, help design and put together new displays, research appropriate historical material and inform others what a display signifies and generally be all-around helpers to the director.

The benefits far outweigh any drawbacks. Most of all, a volunteer likes to hear from visitors how they enjoyed what the museum has to offer. Often visitors are positively amazed by the ways displays are cleverly put together, their variety and their subject's role in history.

This past summer, a new sort of volunteer was on the scene at the museum. He had the special distinction of being named a summer intern. His name is Riley Marth. At fourteen, Riley and his family reside in Wellesley, but they enjoy summering in Osterville.



Riley is tall and pleasant and has always seemed to have an interest in history. After taking a tour of the Centerville Historical Museum, Riley asked and was given an internship at the museum by the director. He spent Fridays and Saturdays learning about the museum's collections and working on projects tasked to him. He says he has enjoyed participating in the museum's activities very much.

One of his favorite pastimes was selecting and reading the old books that are part of the museum's collection. He was especially intrigued with old books' titles as they often never quite revealed what the subject of the books were until he opened them.

Riley felt very comfortable shadowing the museum's tour guides until he became confident that he could lead a tour on his own. One of his favorite displays was on World War I and he was particularly intrigued with the glass case filled with authentic French, American and German war helmets.

If Riley is given a chance to put together his own display, he says he would choose the subject of the Pacific Theater of World War II. He would also be interested in another war theme, the Civil War.

Although Riley likes history and the physical items of history, he has other interests, too. One of them is the sport of crew. He trained with crew teams this summer on Lake Wequaquet, racing in single, four and eight man crew sculls. He also did weight training and had a summer reading list required for his freshman year in high school this fall.

Riley is a thoughtful, friendly helpful young person. He was very happy to have been given the opportunity to work at the museum. He is unsure what his future would be, but is considering becoming a teacher, probably in history, at a secondary level private school.

Perhaps his next few summers will be spent at the museum. Perhaps a display or two will be his to design and put together. Whatever his future is, we wish him well.

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

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE WAS A WOMAN FIGHTING IN A MAN'S WORLD

She was known as “the lady with the lamp.” Her accomplishments were many. Florence Nightingale worked tirelessly her entire life to make health care a human right.

Born into a well-to-do family in 1820, she might have joined in the rituals of the Victorian Age, married, raised a family and lived comfortably. Instead, at the age of 16, she decided to become a nurse, which at the time was considered suitable only for lower-class women.



Very bright and very determined, she shunned marriage and strove to learn as much about the nursing profession as she could. She attended a German nursing school, served as superintendent of a hospital for governesses in London and cared for prostitutes in a cholera epidemic in London in 1853.

In 1854, British troops were sent to Crimea to prevent Russia's Czar Nicholas I's takeover. Nightingale, with the backing of a family friend, England's secretary of state for war, and with 38 nurses under her leadership, traveled to Crimea to set up a hospital for the wounded. Conditions were appalling. Filth, disease and unrelenting cold caused over half of soldiers' deaths. Unable to get help from commanding officers, Nightingale went around them to order supplies. In the next year, with a new sanitary commission in place in London, better health and safety conditions such as cleaning up polluted water supplies were put in place.

Although Nightingale served for parts of three years in Crimea, her ideas about treating the wounded with better conditions, healthy food, warm clothing and separating those with contagious diseases from the others, became the norm in both military and public health care. She insisted freshwater wells be dug and insulated huts be built for her freezing patients.

Of course, a determined woman was dismissed by bureaucrats, but she continued her fight for the battle-weary soldiers because she believed that England, not the bureaucrats, was with her.

Nightingale left the Crimea after suffering a debilitating illness which kept her bedridden for much of the rest of her life though she continued her quest for better hospital conditions for the ill and dying. Slowly her concerns were remedied, starting with constructing a sewage system for London. She collated statistics to prove her ideas were needed. She founded Britain's first nursing school in 1860 and standardized nurses' uniforms and practices. She helped improve unsanitary workhouse conditions for the poor.

There are so many unsavory conditions that were corrected or noted for improvement by Nightingale it defies description. Florence Nightingale was an itch in the government's side that would not go away. Reforms were brought to light because of her quiet but dogged efforts, all to the good of rich and poor alike.

Fittingly, Nightingale's family estate eventually became a nursing home. Today, privately owned, part of it is being turned, bit by bit, into a museum in her honor.

THOUGHTS FROM OUR WRITER

WHY IS THE CENTERVILLE HISTORICAL MUSEUM SO SPECIAL?

Cape Cod has several museums, some specializing in a single theme, such as local town history, while others may allow more leeway due to a variety of artifacts in their collection.

Welcome to The Centerville Historical Museum, a one-of-a-kind establishment on the Cape that has a crack-erjack director, an 18,000 to 19,000 item inventory, at least a dozen individual display areas and a wealth of talent in designing, explaining and putting on a good show for its visitors.

With so many catalogued individual items, each carefully recorded with origin, history, description, date and condition, there is plenty to work with. The high numbers in the museum's collection allows for ongoing changes throughout the museum at any time they are thought needed.

Some displays have been around for a few years. Currently, a WWI exhibit has inhabited a large room since 2018, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the end of that war. An 1860 schoolroom is permanent. One feature of the exhibit is a connection to Centerville with photos of a town school and a horse-drawn school bus.

A few others are also ongoing ones. They can serve as backdrops for added elements that coincide or enhance their original significance. For instance, a Victorian dining room's basic furnishings are still on view, along with an addition of 1880's women's and girl's clothing. Currently, a young girl's birthday party adds to the atmosphere, complete with a vase of colorful flowers and a table with cake and presents.

Imagination is called into play often. A 1700's room with an enormous fireplace is the background for a 1920's speakeasy. This event was staged to commemorate the US constitution's 18th amendment in 1921 which prohibited the making, buying or selling of alcohol. It is a fact that there was a speakeasy down the street from the museum during the Prohibition decade. Proof of that is photos of comic paintings still in the home's basement.

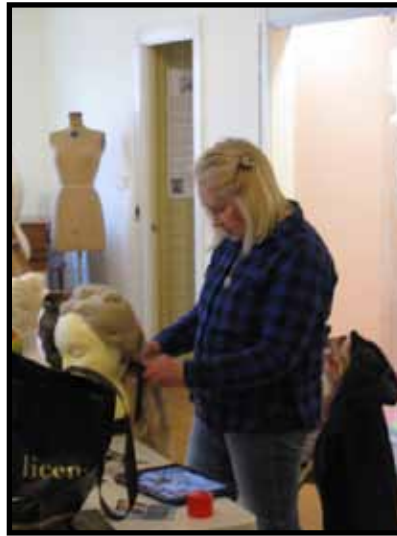
Of course, a new exhibit, even one that has an abundance of material to draw from, is not displayed without exhaustive research into what the museum considers a worthy background into the era, the materials, accessories, information, explanation and showability. One room may hold one exhibit with its own theme. Another may show two, even three separate displays, none related to the other. Currently, The Phinney Room's one wall sports fantastic dress wear that explains the drastic shift of style from 1895 to 1926. Another side is filled with scrapbooks and photographic albums from the late 1800's. A third wall is lined with beaded black capes and capelets that are unique in that their use only lasted for about 40 years.

Variety and excellence are the rules at Centerville's Museum. Docents are happy to show visitors what a fantastic historical collection the museum has. The positive comments from visitors, usually surprise at the variety of exhibits, is abundant. In fact, it is frequently heard that the museum is rather amazing. So, come and view what the museum has to offer. Then come again and again to see what displays are new.

From the desk of newsletter writer Lois Lane
Volunteer



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

Fund-raising Events

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

Centerville Historical Museum BUSINESS MEMBERS

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

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BK Real Estate Inc., Centerville

Bernard Lebow / Swg, Inc, Centerville

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See what we are doing: On You Tube, Pinterest Facebook and on Instagram.

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