

CHEQUAQUET LOG

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

WE WON

**The Centerville Historical Museum was selected
as the # 1 Hidden Gem Museum In Massachusetts!**



What does this mean and how did it happen?

Last November a review appeared in the Boston Globe written by Christopher Muther regarding a national survey done on tourist destinations. He writes, “Have you visited ... the Centerville Historical Society Museum? If you haven’t, you’re missing out on one of the best off-the-beaten-path attractions in Massachusetts, according to a new study of hidden gem tourist spots around the country.” The national survey is explained below.

Uncover The Hidden Gem Tourist Spots Around America by Brittany Mendez, HawaiianIslands.com blogger.

“Many of America’s iconic attractions can fall into the trap of being... well, tourist traps, marked by heaving crowds, long lines and bank-breaking admission fees and gift shops. Some are just downright disappointing in person. Sure, these well known spots are worth ticking off the bucket list someday — but what hidden gems across the country could you be missing out on while you’re standing in line? With this in mind, HawaiianIslands.com went in search of the little-reviewed but highest-rated museums, landmarks, parks, gardens and historic sites to be found in every U.S. state and major city.”

What They Did

“Based on their average rating, to uncover hidden gem tourist spots across America, we went in search of the top five highest-rated attractions within each state and five major cities that have fewer than 100 (but at least 25) publicly available reviews. We could then isolate the highest-rated attraction of a certain type (e.g., parks and gardens) within each state. After filtering out less relevant categories of attractions on Tripadvisor, we were left with 14,103 attractions that hit the review thresholds across the 50 states. Using the review breakdown on each attraction page, we calculated a precise rating for each attraction. We then isolated the highest-rated attractions overall and for select categories (museums, parks & gardens, historic sites and landmarks).”

“There’s no doubt about it; museums and historical sites are popular attractions. Indeed, according to the American Alliance of Museums, ‘more people visit art museums, science centers, historic houses or sites, zoos, or aquariums than attend professional sporting events.’ So focusing on museums in particular, which in every state can claim the crown as the top local hidden gem.”

There it is. We are grateful to be recognized for what we do. We owe many thanks to all of you who took time to write thoughtful, positive reviews; they made the difference.

E V E N T S A T T H E M U S E U M

Collection Restoration projects presentation

Wednesday, March 6th 1PM FREE donation welcome.

Restoration specialists Fran Lautenberger and Robin Maguire will give a presentation on the collection garments that have been restored over the last three years. This 'show and tell' will demonstrate the challenges faced when taking on the preservation of a vintage/antique garment.

MARCH



Wine and Printing Evening

Thursday, April 4 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM \$35. mem, \$45. nonmem

RELIEF STENCIL AND BRAYER PRINTMAKING

Join us for a night of water-based color printmaking. Slightly abstract beach images will be created through a technique of relief stencil and brayer printmaking on Japanese paper. We provide the art materials and a glass of wine or beverage. You provide your creativity and enthusiasm, beginners welcome. Reserve a place - limited seating.

APRIL



Wine and Painting Night

Thursday, May 9, 6:30 to 8:30 PM \$35.mem, \$45.nonmem

Whether a paintbrush is a foreign object or painting a hobby or interest, this wine and painting evening will be a delight. No one will judge or critique these two hours of fun with paint, brush, and palette. Call or email to reserve a place. Artist Joyce Frederick will be leading the step-by-step process to create your own painting. All supplies will be provided - you leave with a finished painting. Limited seating – reservations required. 508-775-0331

MAY



SAVE THE DATE

Afternoon Tea with hats.

Saturday, May 18, 1 - 3 pm

SATURDAY MATINEE MOVIES

SATURDAY FREE MATINEE MOVIES IN FEBRUARY



Saturday, February 3, 2024, 1:30 PM

Charade (1963) 1hr 55min *

The greatest Hitchcock film that Hitchcock never filmed. Stanley Donen's Paris-set mystery has it all: comedy, romance, thrills, and suspense. Reggie Lampert (Audrey Hepburn), the recent widow of a murdered husband finds herself threatened by an unsavory and increasingly desperate trio (James Coburn, George Kennedy, Ned Glass), who are convinced she holds the key to the \$250,000 they stole fair and square 20 years ago. She is aided in her predicament by a suave mystery man (Cary Grant) and an unlikely CIA agent (Walter Matthau).



Saturday, February 10, 2024, 1:30 PM

Return to Me (2000) 1hr 55min *

A perfect film for Valentine's Day, all about hearts - broken and healing. He (David Duchovny, of X Files fame) lost his wife in an accident and donated her organs. She (Minnie Driver), suffering from heart failure, got the transplant. He now goes through the motions of living; she feels guilty about living when another person died. Then they meet and feel an immediate affinity. Now what? With Carroll O'Connor and Robert Loggia as the grandfather and elder who look after her, and Bonnie Hunt and Jim Belushi as the couple closest to her.



Saturday, February 17, 2024, 1:30 PM

Night Shift (1982) 1hr 45min *

Ex stockbroker Chuck Lumley (Henry Winkler, playing the antithesis of his cool Fonzie character from Happy Days) has it all: a dead-end job at the city morgue, a hen-pecking fiancée (Gina Hecht), and a nagging mother (Nita Talbot). Then he acquires a kooky (to say the least) co-worker, Bill Blazejowski (Michael Keaton, in his breakout feature-film role), helps his next-door neighbor (Shelley Long), who just happens to be a prostitute, and who was roughed up by a client because she's lacking a mack [pimp]—and his life suddenly changes. Ron Howard (Winkler's Happy Days co-star) directed this, the funniest movie you'll ever see about procuring.



Saturday, February 24, 2024, 1:30 PM

An Unfinished Life (2005) 1hr 48min *

Rancher Einar Gilkyson (Robert Redford) is a bitter man living alone with only the company of his friend, Mitch Bradley (Morgan Freeman), who's an invalid after having been mauled by a bear. Then Einar's estranged daughter-in-law, Jean (Jennifer Lopez), whom he blames for his son's death, shows up with Griff (Becca Gardner), the 12-year-old granddaughter he never knew he had, and his life changes. A beautiful film that should be better known. See it, and you'll understand why.

* Movie discussion to follow with film critic and author Anthony Ambrogio

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

MURASAKI SHIKIBU-AUTHOR OF ONE OF THE FIRST KNOWN LITERARY NOVELS

One of the newer exhibits at the Centerville Historical Museum features Ukiyo-e, Japanese art, popular in Japan in its day (1780 to 1890) and eventually an influencer of modern art in Europe and America.



One print *The Royal Outing* depicts a woman Murasaki no Ue (pen name for Murasaki Shikibu) with a man, Prince Genji, in a garden. She is holding a bird on a branch and he is admiring her. Her name is Murasaki Shikibu (973-1020 A.D.) and she was a famous author of great renown. In fact, her best-known work, “The Tale of Genji” is known as one of the world’s first novels, which became a favorite inspirational source of many 19th Century Ukiyo-e artists.

Government in Japan in those early days was headed by an imperial emperor and his decrees were sacrosanct. Murasaki’s family, the Fujikawa’s family, were part of the royal court.

Murasaki was very bright and was given an education. She was able to learn Chinese along with her brothers when they sought careers in the government. In this culture, women were isolated, living separately from husbands and other males, only seeing them when a man would visit. Children were raised by their mothers. Murasaki’s father allowed her to live at home longer than most females before sending her to the women’s quarters.

In 996, Murasaki’s father was posted as a governor to one of the country’s provinces and he took Murasaki along with him, an unusual gesture. Two years later, she traveled to Kyoto to marry a second cousin, Fujiwara no Nobutaka, a member of the court, with a reputation of being a dandy, a womanizer and very wealthy. He died two years later of cholera, leaving his widow with a daughter, Kenshi.

With little to do, Murasaki was bored. She began to write poetry and “The Tale of Genji” to pass the time. She loaned her finished chapters to friends, who would read and comment on them and then pass them on to others. She also wrote other stories. Her personality was reserved and on the quiet side, but her writings became well known and her reputation grew.

In her mid-thirties, Murasaki became a lady-in-waiting at court, possibly due to her reputation as an author. A fellow poet, Michinaga, helped her as he had a daughter, Shoshi, whom he wanted Murasaki to educate and to teach Chinese to, as that language was only spoken by men and at court.

Murasaki, being shy, did not care for court life, especially men whom she said were drunken and stupid. She usually wrote when she was alone. When Shoshi, her former pupil, became Empress, Murasaki continued, in secret, to instruct her in classical Chinese. The two remained friends throughout their lives. When Shoshi’s husband, Emperor Ichijo died, she retired from court life and Murasaki did so at the same time and for the remainder of her life, she wrote and studied literature and religion. Murasaki probably died in 1014 at the age of forty-one. Her daughter, Kenshi, went on to become a well-known poet.

Genji means “source, heal or peace.” “The Tale of Genji” took ten years to complete. It is a three-part novel written in a mix of Chinese and Japanese. It is fiction but its subjects rely on traditions, Chinese histories, poetry and Japanese prose. Its stories have been made popular by Ukiyo-e artists, films and paintings. The themes have resonated for a thousand years and are today considered a classic due to those universal themes.

NEW TO THE COLLECTION

WHO DOESN'T LOVE A QUILT?

Last year we were given a few quilts for our permanent collection. They are in excellent condition and we are grateful to be entrusted with their protection and preservation. We will be seeking quilters interested in being part of a weekly or biweekly Quilting Bee. The objective is to assemble the over 400 quilt squares in our collection, made between 1845 and 1935, into finished quilts that will be placed back into the collection. This volunteer group will work under the direction of a team leader. If you're interested or want more information, contact us at: chsm@centervillehistoricalmuseum.org (508) 775-0331



On Left: This quilt is 51" x 53" with a maroon velvet border pieced with silk/silk satin diamond shapes many hand embroidered. The pattern is Tumbling Block and is a star formed from six diamonds bordered by six diamonds, all within a hexagon and repeated. Circa 1910, Gift of Sally Buffington.

On Right: All silk Churn & Dash pattern quilt 75" x 66"; hand sewn; multi-colored. Several patches have hand embroidery. Circa 1930, Gift of Kathleen Andreoli.



On Left: Quilt squares, pattern X Block, fabric is a cotton print of multiple colors, all squares are hand sewn. Squares are autographed with the quilter's name. Several include village location and month, day and year made. Dated 1877.

On Right: Signed quilt square *Aunt Abby, Centerville April 12, 1877*. Gift of Margaret Bradley-Felton. This collection of quilt squares came from a quilting bee in 1877 and never assembled. Perhaps one day these squares will be made into a finished quilt.

TH O U G H T S F R O M O U R W R I T E R

THADDEUS STEVENS: ONCE FORGOTTEN, NOW REMEMBERED

Lancaster, Pennsylvania is a prosperous and lovely town with a population of about 60,000 citizens. Founded in the early 1700's, the town is surrounded by lovely farmland, the soil so rich it is considered equal to that of California's Imperial Valley.

Recently, the Smithsonian Magazine had an article featuring Thaddeus Stevens, stating he was probably the most important opponent of slavery in American history. This story immediately brought back my memories of Thaddeus Stevens, as he lived in Lancaster where I lived for many years and is considered a hero there. His home is preserved, a technical/vocational school bears his name, historical signs and a small monument point out his importance. Students in area civics classes study Stevens' contributions locally and in the United States Congress.

Stevens was born to a poor family in Peacham, Vermont in 1798. Born with a club foot, his chances of success were not considered likely. However, he was very bright and took advantage of his admittance to Dartmouth College to further his prospects. After obtaining a law degree in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, he moved to Lancaster and opened what turned out to be a lucrative law practice.

Stevens never married, though his mulatto housekeeper was thought to be his common-law wife. While living in Lancaster, he found that the town was a haven for slaves escaping the southern states, as it straddled the Mason-Dixon Line. Many of the town's red brick homes had basement cubbyholes for fleeing slaves to hide as slave catchers from Maryland would cross the state border to apprehend them and return them to their southern owners.

Stevens, while running his law practice, began to harbor slaves and head an antislavery spy ring that existed in the southern counties of Pennsylvania. He became involved with the Underground Railroad and defended fugitive slaves. He was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives where he believed in and fought for free public education. He joined the Whig Party and was elected to the United States Congress in 1848. Unsupported by pro-slavery politicians he did not run for election in 1852, but in 1860, Stevens joined the newly formed Republican Party and was persuaded by friends to again run for Congress. President Abraham Lincoln and Stevens both believed that the Confederates should be considered revolutionaries and their secession from the Union should be crushed by force. The Civil War achieved that goal.

While Stevens did not win all the arguments he made to help those who were discriminated against, he was successful in helping to defeat the Confederacy by raising money through taxation to finance the war. The result crushed the power of slave owners, ended slavery and secured the same equal rights for all. He was instrumental in leading the efforts to pass the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution that abolished slavery and the Fourteenth Amendment that gave equal protection under the law.

Throughout his life, Thaddeus Stevens fought for what he believed in-what was right and what was fair. Those who knew him respected him and regarded him a man of principle. That regard and respect continues to this day.

From the desk of newsletter writer Lois Lane



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.**

1856 Country Store, Centerville

BK Real Estate Inc., Centerville

Bernard Lebow / Swg, Inc, Centerville

Cape Cod 5 Saving Bank, Centerville

Cape Cod Package Store, Centerville

Capt. David Kelley House, Centerville

Carol Travers Lummus Prints, Barnstable

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

Hy-Line Cruises, Hyannis

Isaiah Thomas Books, Cotuit

Joyce Frederick Art, Centerville

Long Dell Inn, Centerville

Margaret and Carl Hill, Centerville

Mr Plumb-Rite LLC, Centerville

Peak's Maritime Collaborative, Marstons Mills

Scott Peacock Building, Inc, Osterville

Talin Bookbindery, Yarmouth Port

TD Bank, Centerville

Twins Plumbing, Marstons Mills



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.



website: www.centervillehistoricalmuseum.org
email: chsm@centervillehistoricalmuseum.org
address: 513 Main Street, Centerville, MA 02632
Phone: (508) 775- 0331