

CHEQUAQUET LOG

The Newsletter of the Centerville Historical Museum
www.centervillehistoricalmuseum.org



Brian Murphy and ADRIFT

A special treat is in store for the museum when Brian Murphy of the Washington Post speaks on his new publication, Adrift, Sunday, October 21st at 2:00 p.m. limited seating, admission fee

Brian has local connections to Cape Cod as some of his family reside in Centerville. He graduated from Boston College with a major in journalism and began his career with The Sun newspaper in Lowell. Journalism has expanded Brian's life tremendously. After joining the Associated Press, his career sent him to foreign posts such as Europe, the Middle East, Rwanda, the Balkans, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Asian tsunami, and the Arab Spring. That is an impressive amount of stamps on one's passport.



Brian's first book The New Men highlights six American seminarians in Rome for a year. The second book The Root of Wild Madder tells of Brian's travels in Iran and Afghanistan, including studying the intricacies of native carpets. Along with the help of his wife, Toula Vlahou, Brian's third and fourth books, 81 Days Below Zero and Adrift deal with survival under unbelievably difficult circumstances.

Adrift tells the story of the sailing ship, The John Rutledge, captained by Alexander Kelley, leaving Liverpool, England in the spring of 1856, bound for New York City. On board besides the crew, were 100 Irish emigrants, plus mail and cargo. There had been warnings that in this particular spring there were usually more icebergs drifting southward. Whether sailing ships or the new steamboats, they were to be extra watchful.

Thomas W. Nye was a twenty-one year old crew member on this voyage. Members of the Nye family were numerous in the Fairhaven and Sandwich areas. Many had seafaring backgrounds and Thomas had decided to continue that tradition. Nye's captain, Alexander Kelley, aged thirty-two, also had local ties. His grandfather had fought in the Revolutionary War and helped found Centerville's Congregational church. Alexander's father, David, also a sea captain, had a home on Main Street, now a popular B & B run by innkeepers, Tom Nortz and Rick Garceau. Alexander's

wife was a Hatch, whose ancestors had helped found Falmouth. What happens in this book is for the reader to discover. The story is one of horrible difficulties under conditions meant to defeat any human soul. It is rich in the history of the era of sailing the ocean, in calm and in storm. It is also rich in descriptions of the life of sailors, captains' families, the times of mid-century England and America, the importance of the cotton industry, and so much more. Brian has scoured numerous diaries, the ship's log, news accounts and family archives to bring this story sharply into focus. This book is well worth the read.

Asked why the will to live is a centerpiece for two of his books, Brian answered, "We all have the will to survive. But not all of us have the emotional and intellectual tools to survive. What I mean by this is the ability to remain calm, nurture hope, work through problems and not succumb to fear. We all like to think we have those traits, but I believe they are more elusive than we like to think." Come and be mesmerized by Adrift and its author, Brian Murphy.

Credits: Author Photograph: Andriana Skalkos

E V E N T S

OKTOBERFEST in September

Wie Gehts, Alles,

Perhaps the cooling weather had something to do with it. The graying evening and persistent breeze hinted at the autumn to come. Oktoberfest was right on time.

The Centerville Historical Museum's party had a capacity crowd, delicious food, plenty of yummy appetizers and various German beers and wines to taste during the pleasant evening of September 8th. The Charles Ayling room looked quite festive. Cutouts of women in dirndls and men in lederhosen, fall flower arrangements and mats of fall leaves, beer steins on all the tables and a beer keg on the bulky 1840 piano carried a Germanic theme throughout. To top things off, the Cape Cod Bavarian Band kept things lively. Bob, Bob, Chris, Ken,



and Henry made up that band. Complementing their mostly black and silver instruments, the players sported red vests and black trousers. They tuned up before the guests arrived, joked a little and were a friendly group, ready to enjoy the evening. They, among other styles, liked to play polkas, waltzes, and traditional German music. The bar was set up in the gift shop and John Fahrenholz and Pat Talin were comparing different brands of beer and wine and agreeing on which glasses suited each beverage. "I'm so excited," said Pat. "I love wiener schnitzel." Sue Lewsen and Bonnie Wenger prepared a German dinner. For appetizers there were sauerkraut meatballs, German beer cheese spread, and Den Biergarten cheese and crackers. So good!



The main meal consisted of Jaegerschnitzel (pork cutlets), Spaetzle (noodles with gravy), Gurkensalat (cucumber salad), applesauce and Black Forest cake for dessert. Oh! Boy! "I think this evening is going to be really great," opined Barb Fahrenholz, as she brought a dish to the serving table.

Greeting the guests as they arrived was Bebe Brock, clad in a genuine Austrian wool jumper with white blouse and a Tyrolean style hat. She looked smashing and her outfit provided many a pleasing comment. Volunteers had set up the rooms and hung the decorations. They baked the dessert cakes, too. Sue Lewsen was the person to go to for providing the menu. Sue and her husband are a retired military couple and had been stationed in Stuttgart for several years (she was a nurse and a major). Both admired the German culture, even though neither had direct German ancestry. As Cape Cod residents, they have continued to expand their interest in the language and for Sue, her cooking skills.

This event was just right to begin the fall season. Ja Wohl!!

CANDLE LIGHT HARVEST DINNER

Saturday, November 3, 6PM

We provide the Ham, Turkey and libations. Everyone brings their favorite accompanying dish to share.

Join us for an enchanted evening at the museum with friends and family as we share an evening of food and conversation. \$25.00 per person, Reservations by October 27th.

RSVP and menu options please contact:
Judy Shumway 508-681-0434

A M O M E N T I N T I M E

Part 1 The History of the English Language

Two thousand years ago, the language now heard 'round the world was incomprehensible. The British Isles had tribes throughout its land, all speaking languages that had no connection to each other. Nothing was written, only spoken or sung. War and isolation reigned. A land bridge that once connected The British Isles to the mainland had disappeared long before. Yes, the Romans conquered parts of the Isles, but Latin was spoken and written for and by the Romans, and only a few words escaped into local adaptation. The words "caster" or "chester" meant a Roman camp, so such cities as Lancaster and Chester denoted an armed encampment.

The first newcomers after the departure of Rome arrived from Friesland in the Netherlands around 500 A.D., and with them came Germanic-related words. Recognized as the first of modern English; frost, blue, mist, three, four, sea, storm, cheese, bread, meat, boat, butter are good examples. The Celts and the already present separate tribes added the words wealth, slave, tor (peak), broch (badger), combe (valley), Thames and London. Soon after, the areas of

Wessex, Sussex, Northumbria, Kent, and East Anglia were apportioned in the mid and lower part of Britain and words began to be commonized. "Ing", meaning people of, or Taun, meaning village, describes an Anglo-Saxon influence from these newly formed villages; from them terms such as son, daughter, field, friend, like, and all the numbers mixed in. Today we may not recognize the words, as long ago they were pronounced much differently, but they are basic to our language today.



Christianity's arrival in the late sixth century brought change almost at once. Educated monks from Ireland sailed to the small island of Lindisfarne. They spoke and read Latin and they introduced a written script in book form, called Verbum - the Word. Mass and monk were added to the vocabulary of the peasant. And a monk named Bede, at the monastery at Jarrow, took it upon himself to write down the words on parchment, thus preserving that written word. Poetry gained huge acceptance and English's first great poem, "Beowulf", with its evil Grendel, was presented in glory and praise to the Germanic tribes, a first to use what is now known as Olde English. There are 40,000 different words in "Beowulf" and its descriptive terms like glee beam for harp, ban huf or bone house, referring to the body, or war board for shield are what make this poem a treasure, especially if read aloud. Inevitably, another great upheaval occurred, this time in the eighth century, from the plundering Vikings.

Above: Island of Lindisfarne

A M O M E N T I N T I M E

Captain George Smith Patton

Lieutenant General George Smith Patton, (1885-1945) was considered one of the finest combat generals in United States history. He was born in San Gabriel, California, and died as the result of a traffic accident in Heidelberg, Germany, in 1945.



Patton always wanted to be a war hero after hearing of family ancestors' bravery in the American Revolution and the Civil War and that path took him to the U.S. Military Academy. He graduated from the Academy in 1909 and married in 1910.

Known for his athletic prowess, Patton was proficient enough to compete in the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm, Sweden, as a fencer, finishing fifth overall. From there he taught as Master of the Sword at the Mounted Service School in Kansas. He also patented a sword of his own design.

He was also known for being accident prone and for having an explosive temper.

In 1915, he led an attack against Pancho Villa, Mexico's renegade, and this was the first use of military vehicles by the army. Noting Patton's war prowess, General J.J. Pershing asked him to serve as his aide in 1916. Patton impressed Pershing even more when he personally shot and killed Julio Cardenas during the battle of Colombos. Patton was promoted to

Captain and was named leader of Pershing's headquarters troop once all left Mexico and joined The American Expeditionary Force in Europe.

By 1917, Patton had become the first officer assigned to the AEF's tank corps. Patton took this job seriously. He studied French tank battles and trained American tankers to drive French Renault tanks. His first tank battle was at St. Mihiel in September, 1918. Soon after he was wounded at Meuse-Argonne. Shortly after that he earned the Distinguished Service Medal for his leadership in tank warfare. Somewhere along the way, Patton gained the moniker "Old Blood and Guts" from his soldiers. He wrote to his wife, "If I'm not attacking, I'm bilious."

Come see our WW1 exhibit and learn about tank warfare development

MUSEUM MATINEE MOVIES

In October will be **Halloween Classics**

In November will be **Spanning the Wars**

In December will be **Holiday Favorites**

10/20: *Arsenic and Old lace* (1944), 10/27: *Curse of the Demon* (1958)

11/3: *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1930), 11/17: *Confessions of a Nazi Spy* (1939)

12/1: *Holiday* (1938), 12/8: *Desk Set* (1957)

OCTOBER

Halloween Classics

“Halloween Classics” offers two pictures, one chockfull of chuckles, the other guaranteed to give you chills.

Saturday, October 20 at 2PM.

Arsenic and Old Lace (1944). Classic comedy about the harmless Brewster sisters (Josephine Hutchison, Jean Adair) and their nephews, drama-critic Mortimer (Cary Grant); Teddy, who thinks he’s Theodore Roosevelt (John Knox); and sadistic criminal Jonathan (Raymond Massey), who has a sidekick, plastic surgeon Dr. Einstein (Peter Lorre). Unfortunately for all concerned, Jonathan decides to return to his family home on the day that Mortimer marries Elaine (Priscilla Lane), the girl next door.

Saturday, October 27 at 2PM

Curse of the Demon (1958). Dana Andrews is a skeptic about occult matters who has his skepticism sorely tested when he journeys to England and comes up against a magician who uses the dark arts to eliminate folks who cross him. An atmospheric horror film in the manner of the Val Lewton horror films of the 1940s (*Cat People* [1942], *I Walked with a Zombie* [1943], etc.).

NOVEMBER

Spanning the Wars

“Spanning the Wars” takes us from the end of the Great War to the rumblings leading up to the next one. We’re showing them in November to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I (November 11, 1918). Come early and see the Museum’s exhibit on World War I, if you haven’t already.

Saturday, November 3 at 2PM.

All Quiet on the Western Front (1930). Academy-award-winning picture based on Eric Maria Remarque’s novel of the same name. A look at the horrors of war through the eyes of a young German soldier (Lew Ayres) who experiences it first hand.

Saturday, November 17, 2PM.

Confessions of a Nazi Spy (1939). The first American film to confront the menace of the Nazi fifth column and the German-American bundt. Edward G. Robinson is a G-Man who investigates.

DECEMBER

Not-So-Well-Known Holiday Favorites

There are certain Christmas-time movies that everybody knows and everybody sees during this season of the year (It’s a Wonderful Life, White Christmas, etc.). We thought we’d screen a couple of great holiday-set movies that aren’t so well known from constant exposure.

Saturday, December 1, 2PM.

Holiday (1938). Cary Grant is engaged to one rich sister. Katharine Hepburn is the other rich sister. Lew Ayres is their ne’er-do-well brother. It all takes place on the 12 days of Christmas. With Edward Everett Horton.

Saturday, December 8, 2PM.

Desk Set (1957). Spencer Tracy is an efficiency expert, apparently, called in to a tv network to observe Katharine Hepburn and her crew of researches (including Joan Blondell and Dina Merrill). Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s figure prominently.



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