

# CHEQUAQUET LOG

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



## DEVELOPMENTS

Welcome to the Development Committee's inaugural column, but first, an introduction.

As many of you are aware, the museum depends 100% on contributions, memberships and earned income (yard sale, fun events, etc.) to support its operating budget. It receives no local, regional or national municipal operating funds. Last year, prompted by the museum's first ever matching challenge grant, several new volunteers stepped up to help the museum with the task of increasing contributions and memberships. These volunteers now form the Development Committee. Their efforts will support the long-standing efforts of the Board of Directors to provide financial security to the museum.

The Committee asked for and was granted a column in this newsletter to share their activities, challenges and accomplishments with you, our loyal members, donors and friends.

Since the January Newsletter extended heartfelt thanks to all the donors to the 2018 Annual Appeal, it may appear a bit repetitive to do so again. However, it is not possible to understate the tremendous impact of the 2018 matching challenge grant. An anonymous donor offered an additional \$10,000 in unrestricted funds if we could just convince our loyal supporters to contribute the same amount. Depending on your background with non-profits and charities, that may or may not sound large to you. Let me assure you, it was very significant to the museum. Prior to last year, the all time high in Annual Appeal contributions was \$6,355 in 2017. Having to raise \$10,000 seemed like a Herculean task. We were being asked to increase donations by 38%.

We were blown away by the response from our community!!

Not only did the museum meet the challenge of raising \$10,000, the generosity continued to pour in to the tune of \$12,265 in Annual Appeal donations. We heard from donors new and old. In fact, we had more Annual Appeal donors (105) than at any other time in our history.

We are grateful and humbled by this outpouring of support for our role in the Centerville community.

We are more than a quarter through 2019 already. (How time does fly.) Clearly, we hope to repeat the financial success of last year. In addition, the Development Committee is putting its efforts into expanding our pool of museum members while we wait to hear if our generous anonymous donor will consider repeating the gift which was so effective in inspiring others.

Going forward, DEVELOPMENTS will bring you more insight to these activities and the volunteers doing the work. We've shown you a peek behind the curtain into the effort that goes on to launch a new exhibit. Now we will pull that back a bit further to show you what it takes to operate the museum and who helps make it possible.

Next time, we will begin our introductions to the museum leadership, The Board of Directors. In the meantime, we look forward to getting to know you as you learn about our goals for the organization we all care about - the Centerville Historical Museum.

## COMING EVENT

### Save the Date

**Country and Western Cookout  
Come for Food and Fun!**

June 29, 2019 (Rain or shine) 5 to 8 pm

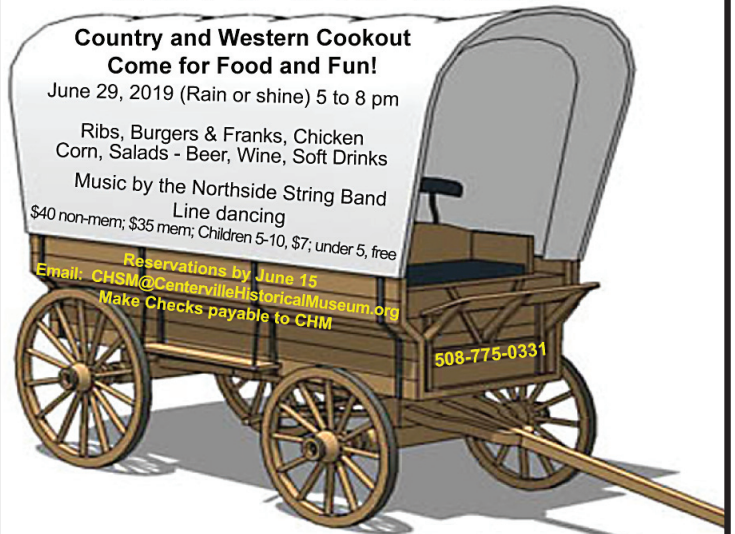
Ribs, Burgers & Franks, Chicken  
Corn, Salads - Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks

Music by the Northside String Band  
Line dancing

\$40 non-mem; \$35 mem; Children 5-10, \$7; under 5, free

Reservations by June 15  
Email: [CHSM@CentervilleHistoricalMuseum.org](mailto:CHSM@CentervilleHistoricalMuseum.org)  
Make Checks payable to CHM

508-775-0331



# E D U C A T I O N

## It's a Pleasure Showing Students History

One of the purposes of the Centerville Historical Museum is to engage the youth of our communities in history. Books and classrooms teach; however, put kids in a museum and they absorb and experience so much more.

Recently, two groups of children visited the museum for a program offered by the museum education committee. A group of Girl Scouts visited this past March in order to obtain an official GS badge called "Playing the Past" badge. The scouts participated in a program focused on 19th century life in Centerville.



The second group, twenty-four eighth grade students from Cape Cod Academy, spent an afternoon enjoying hands-on Civil War history. Using museum collection uniforms, accoutrements, diaries and weapons, museum staff planned and presented the event. Student participation was encouraged throughout the presentation culminating in a surprise event.

Executive Director Randy Hoel explained the symbolism of several elements incorporated as part of various Union uniforms. He also read excerpts from Centerville resident Augustus Ayling's

Civil War diaries. Notable were Ayling's observations at the Battle of Hampton Roads where he witnessed the famous naval ironclad battle between the North's USS Monitor and the South's CSS Virginia (aka the Merrimack) in March of 1862.



Volunteer Gail Vincent brought history to a more intimate level with her animated stories of a few Centerville soldiers and sailors who fought for the Union. Students were fascinated when Gail let everyone get a close up view of the Ayling diary's tiny and lovely script. Her presentation of objects and photographs from the museum's collection relating to local Civil War soldiers helped make local history closer and more personal.



Peter Kastrinelis, volunteer and military history enthusiast, discussed Civil War weaponry with examples of rifles and swords that displayed the advancement of

technology as the War progressed. He demonstrated how to load a muzzle loader gun and then explained the importance of speed in reloading the weapon while in battle (three loads a minute was considered good). As a surprise, the students were able to participate in a competitive contest of speed in loading a muzzle loader rifle. Though the students did not use actual guns, they were given clever substitutes comprised of long metal tubes (rifle barrel), sugar (gun powder), silver beads (shot) and cotton balls (wadding). There was both laughter and fierce competition as the "rifles" were "loaded". Four prizes were awarded to the four fastest participants.



# EXHIBITS

## A NEW EXHIBIT - ONE FOR EVERYONE TO LOVE

*Delicious .. Enticing .. Forbidden A Story of Candy*

Did you ever eat jujyfruits at the movies – receive a Whitman’s Sampler on Valentine’s Day – make a “peeps” diorama for Easter – share candy dots with a best friend – bring home a box of taffy from the beach? Or, have you ever tested your will power when confronted with a tempting Hershey bar? If so you will love our latest exhibit. What could be more fun than an exhibit of candy’s history!!!! The theme - Candy, yes, CANDY! Born out of a casual Board Member conversation about potential exhibits, after a bit of research, the idea grew into one of the most fun and interesting exhibit around.

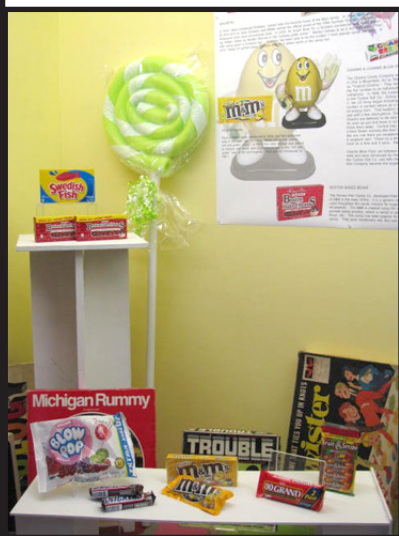


Did you know Whitman’s Candy came about in the 1840’s, Hershey’s chocolate in 1894, cotton candy and Candy Corn in 1897, the Baby Ruth bar and the Milky Way in 1923, M&Ms in 1941 and Pez in 1952? Did you know that Franklin Mars learned to make candy at his mother’s knee? His invention, the Milky Way, became the world’s best seller by 1930 and the family’s fortunes today are among the top ten worldwide. Did you know that Milton Hershey, after failing five times, perfected his chocolate in Lancaster, PA, in 1894? His company grew so large that he built the town of Hershey. Located in the lush Pennsylvania countryside, surrounded by dairy farms, the Hershey Company produces such items as Hershey Kisses and Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups, which frequently rises to the number one candy sold in America.



The museum exhibit has gathered together numerous samples of many of the candies still on the market, most are just as popular as they were when first introduced. We deeply appreciate both the 1856 Country Store in Centerville and the Candy Company in South Yarmouth for their contributions of dozens of the delicious items on display.

To further the walk along memory lane, advertising memorabilia, clever decorations – including the mockup of a gigantic gumball machine - and games of the past years are included with the candy display. Adults will enjoy reminiscing and children will be amused at the games from our recent past.



Added to all this are ladies’ fashions; the waist less dresses of the 1920’s, in tribute perhaps to the Charleston Chew candy named after the dance craze of the decade, The Charleston.” The 1950’s feature the Poodle skirt, hats and dresses. There are 1960’s styles, too.

Museum staff and volunteers have truly enjoyed working on this exhibit. Candy, childhood games, and pretty clothes – they bring smiles to the faces of all of us.

Come on over to the museum and enjoy this colorful, delicious, lively exhibit, so cleverly put together. It’s sweet as sweet can be.



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

## A Lady of Organization

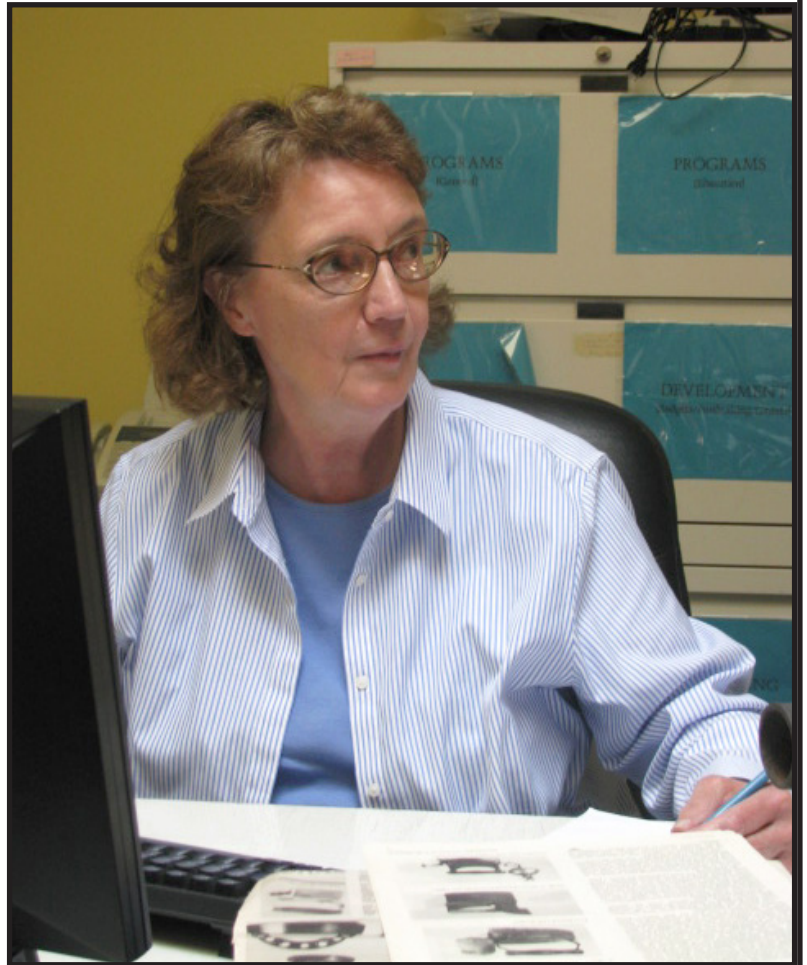
Museums, large and small, must run well. Their worker bees, known as volunteers, have to find where a particular item is stored, whether in a cubbyhole, a box, or a shelf. Sometimes the hunt can be particularly elusive, especially if a label is incorrect or missing or not in its proper place.

There is a smart, quiet, experienced and friendly person who helps with storing all the information needed for each item owned by the museum. Thank goodness for her skills.

Dianne Potter, who lives in Bourne, travels to Centerville each Tuesday to spend the day behind a computer. Most of the time, numerous pieces of history are piled around her as she patiently does an outstanding job cataloguing the museum collection. Retired from Fidelity Investments, in which she had been Director of Workflow Systems, Dianne moved to the Cape eight years ago. The area was familiar as she and her family had spent many summers in Marston's Mills. "After I settled in, I wanted to look for activities," says Dianne. "I looked online and found that the Centerville Historical Museum was looking for volunteers. I submitted an application and came in for a trial run." Dianne has been volunteering at the museum now for nine years.

On a computer program used especially in museums, Dianne's job is to organize the 17,000 items in the museum's collection. For each piece, any information about that piece is important. A photograph is taken of the article. Then the questions begin: what is its age? Who donated it or where was it obtained? What is its condition, measurement size? Is there a local story behind it? The idea is to discern what this piece of clothing or tool or furniture is worth to the museum. Are there other similar items or is it unique to the time? Is it hand-sewn or machine made? So many questions are perused, investigated, and catalogued in the computer program, thus giving that article as much of a factual life as it can.

Dianne Potter truly enjoys pecking the keys and adding to the story of the Museum's varied and wonderful collection. "I'm an organizer, so this is what I like to do," she states. "I like to make sense of chaos and working with the other volunteers." An important task, a smile while doing it, and the museum's appreciation for well done work.



# INTERESTING HISTORY



## FACING THE FIRING SQUAD AT DAWN

Dedicated in 1923, the pictured statue was the first in Europe to honor a working-class woman. Her name was Gabrielle Petit.

Although she had a difficult childhood, she grew to become a famous British spy, revered by her Belgian countrymen. Her mother died when Gabrielle was 9; she was sent to live in an orphanage. Her dream was to study for a teaching degree, but money was lacking. Instead she worked at a series of service jobs; when World War I started, she volunteered to work for the Red Cross.

After her fiancé was wounded, he wanted to rejoin his unit in the Netherlands. She smuggled him over the border and while there, gave German troop movement information to the British. They recruited and trained her as a spy. She gathered information about the German Sixth Army and set up a network who helped her.

Gabrielle also worked on an underground newspaper and mail service and helped other soldiers escape from the war zone. The British considered her one of their best spies, but unfortunately, her network was infiltrated by a German mole. She was arrested and tried. The Germans offered to free her if she revealed the names of other agents. She refused.

She was executed on April 1, 1916. Not only did she decline a blindfold; but when a German soldier offered his hand, she said: "I do not need your assistance. You are going to see that a young Belgian woman knows how to die."

Her execution and death went unnoticed until after the war ended. She then became a national hero, described as Belgium's Joan of Arc. She was given a state funeral, and the pictured statue was erected in Brussels.

Visit our World War I exhibit to learn about two other women, Mata Hari and Edith Cavell, who were also executed as spies. In addition you will discover more about Gabrielle, including why Edith's October 1915 execution delayed Gabrielle's April 1916 death.



# MUSEUM MATINEE MOVIES

We end our Spring series of movie this year with Anthony Ambrogio our movie guide, historian, and critic. Below is a listing of two double feature movies he will present to our dedicated audience of movie enthusiasts.

May 11: Same Setting, Different Stories

***Heat Lightning*** (1934) 64 m. [released March 3, 1934] An unsung pre-Code gem from director Mervyn LeRoy (whose *Five Star Final* [1931], *Three on a Match* [1932], and *Golddiggers of 1933* [1933] we have previously screened at the museum). In the Mojave Desert, Olga (Aline MacMahon) runs a gas station/restaurant. She came out here to escape the ills of the big city; her younger sister (Ann Dvorak), a waitress at the eatery, wants nothing more than to get away and experience those ills herself. Then the big city descends on their roadside diner in the form of a pair of randy society dames (Ruth Donnelly, Glenda Farrell) and their chauffeur (Frank McHugh) and a couple of hoodlums (Preston Foster, Lyle Talbot) on the lam.

***Petrified Forest*** (1936) 83 m. [released February 8, 1936] Film adaptation of Robert Sherwood's smash Broadway play marks Humphrey Bogart's triumphant return to Hollywood after a false start 1930-33. He recreates his stage role as the Dillinger-like gangster Duke Mantee, whose mob descends on a desert roadside café at the same time that a disillusioned dreamer and poet Alan Squire (Leslie Howard, also reprising his Broadway role) arrives there. Working at the restaurant is a young waitress, Gaby (Bette Davis), who wants nothing more than to get out of this desert dead end.

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May 18: Mysteries with Famous Literary Sleuths

***Charlie Chan on Broadway*** (1937) 68 m. [released October 8, 1937] Warner Oland's 15th and penultimate appearance as the master detective, the self-effacing, unassuming Chinese whom all the Caucasians in the cast underestimate but who always solves the case while remaining invariably polite and spouting witty aphorisms. In this entry, under the bright lights of the Great White Way, he and Number One Son Lee (Keye Luke) solve the murder of a woman who has a package guaranteed to "blow the lid off this town."

***The Scarlet Claw*** (1944) 74 m. [released May 26, 1944] Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce's 8th appearance as the world's greatest detective, Sherlock Holmes, and his bumbling assistant, Dr. Watson, finds the pair in a small Canadian village of La Mort Rouge (the Red Death), where several murders (in which the victims' throats were torn out) lead the townsfolk to suspect supernatural forces at play. Are they?



**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 Benefactor membership and more.

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

\$20  \$30  \$40  \$50  \$75 Charge my: \_\_\_\_\_ Card

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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

INDIVIDUAL (\$35.00) _____	DUAL (\$40.00) _____	FAMILY (\$50.00) _____
PATRON (\$80.00) _____	BENEFACTOR (\$125.00) _____	BUSINESS (\$150.00) _____

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.

## *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  
**Cape Cod Five Cent Savings Bank**, Hyannis  
**Cape Cod Package Store**, Centerville  
**Cape Cod Retirement Realty**, Centerville  
**Capt. David Kelley House**, Centerville  
**Carol Travers Lummus Prints**, Barnstable  
**Daily Paper Restaurant**, Hyannis  
**Daniel Lewis Architect, AIA**, Centerville  
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**Four Seas Ice Cream**, Centerville  
**Held Electric Company**, Parker, CO  
**Hy-Line Cruises**, Hyannis  
**Joyce Frederick Art**, Centerville  
**Rene L. Poyant, Inc.**, Centerville  
**Scott Peacock Building, Inc**, Osterville  
**Talin Bookbindery**, Yarmouth Port  
**Twins Plumbing**, Marstons Mills



Don't forget. The Centerville Historical Museum is on Facebook, centerville historical museum and on Instagram, @centerville\_historical\_museum, and on Pinterest, centerville historical museum