

CHEQUAQUET LOG

Newsletter of the **CENTERVILLE
HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

CHM is named #1 Hidden Gem Museum in Massachusetts.

C O L O N I A L A M E R I C A

March is Women's History Month

Women's History Month is an annual observance to highlight the contributions of women to events in history.



For those who are familiar with our exhibit program we recently replaced the *Speakeasy* exhibit which commemorated the 100th anniversary of the beginning of prohibition in 1920 with the new exhibit *Colonial America*. This exhibit focuses on the colonial kitchen and the many tasks that were performed there on a daily basis which were necessary to the well-being of the entire household. It should come as no surprise that this myriad of chores was done by women. The household in colonial times required the same duties then as now except the differences are notable. Today, if you need light to see in your kitchen you just turn on a light; then it would have been lighting a candle - but wait, you need to make the candle first and that chore was accomplished by the women of the household.

Want to keep warm; better be sure the open hearth fireplace has hot coals at all times, 24/7. Your cooking, washing, laundry, ironing, and baking to name a few

necessities all depended on heat from that single source. The fireplace is the focus of this 18th century theme exhibit in which we feature five satellite jobs performed by women. Those jobs were candle making, rug making, butter making, clothes cleaning and baking. Highlighting these displays are the original tools and objects needed to perform these chores.

Although the museum does not emphasize any specific women who contributed to these daily events in history, there is no doubt that all women from the colonial period helped contribute to the history of Colonial America.



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

Afternoon Tea Don't forget your hat!
Saturday, May 4, 2 PM \$40.mem, \$50.nonmem

NEW DATE

Join us for a lovely and lively afternoon tea. Enter the hat contest and win a prize. Presentation on hat history and fashion. Refreshments include finger sandwiches, desserts and, of course, tasty and perfectly steeped tea.

Gluten-free options available. Limited seating – reservations required by April 19th. 508-775-0331



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 the work you create during two hours of fun with paint, brush and palette. Call or email to reserve a place. Artist Joyce Frederick will lead in 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



1950s Night

Saturday, June 15, 6:30 to 8:30 PM \$30 mem, \$40 nonmem

Let's go to the Hop! Time to dig out your poodle skirt and saddle shoes and return to the 50s. Travel back with us for a nostalgic evening, a fun party with 50s music, song and dance.

Music, hors d'oeuvres, beer & wine provided.

Elvis impersonators welcome, dancing encouraged. Reservations. (508) 775-0331



MAY

MAY

JUNE

N E W E X H I B I T

IT IS ALL ABOUT PAISLEY

In an upstairs room at the museum are some intriguing examples of a very old yet thoroughly modern pattern known as Paisley. There is a bedspread, a scarf, jackets, housecoats, shawls and more on display, all in a variety of Paisley colors and patterns and dating from the early 19th century to the early 20th century.



Experts cannot pinpoint exactly where Paisley originated, though ancient Babylon seems to be the most likely location. Babylon and Persia were old, old lands in the Middle East. Iraq is now a country in what was then called Babylon and its city of Yazi has been considered a possible site for the origins of the Paisley pattern. The date of the appearance of paisley is highly questionable and ranges anywhere from 1700 BC to 200 to 600 AD. Experts do know that Paisley was made from a fabric called “termah,” a blend of silk and wool. The pattern also dates to the 11th century near Kashmir, a territory of India. Its popularity became prevalent in the 16th century with the weaving of luxurious Kashmir shawls.

These paisley patterned shawls were introduced to Europe when they were offered as gifts from

Kashmir princes to European officers. Men in those areas of the world wore paisley shawls in ceremonies. Paisley designs were vastly different from the standard patterns seen today. Flowers complete with stems were popular and that design bears a resemblance to modern Chinese calligraphy. The shape of the Paisley design has been imaginatively called, among other things, Persian pickles, a kidney, a teardrop, an almond, a cashew nut, a mango, an Indian pinecone, even a cucumber.

Surprisingly, Paisley has also been traced to the Celts of Britain, where its shape decorated metal objects and the famous Wandsworth sword which dates from 200 BC. The most prominent colors used in those decorations were red, yellow and blue. By the 16th and 17th centuries, trade with various countries in the Middle East and Asia expanded the use of Paisley as a design. Weavers eventually added to and elaborated their talents with new artistic motifs taken from imported ceramics and fabrics from faraway lands.

Paisley has had its ups and downs in the last few centuries. British and French textile owners tried copying the Kashmir shawls but were never completely successful. The powerful East India Company reintroduced Paisley when it brought shawls to Europe around the year 1800. These beautiful shawls were no longer worn by men, for their designs made them perfect for women. The designs ranged from elephants and other animals, to people, to geometric shapes. In France, Napoleon’s wife, Josephine, was known to own hundreds of Paisley shawls.



It was during the 19th century that a Kashmir type shawl featuring the Paisley pattern was successfully woven. This was accomplished in the textile weaving town of Paisley, Scotland, thus giving this the famous pattern its name, as its 6,000 workers wove a new type of Paisley shawl, one that was reversible. The blend of silk and wool threads continued the tradition from long before. There had been an attempt to use wool threads from cashmere goats newly imported to Britain, but cold weather did not suit the goats and they soon perished. England’s Queen Victoria purchased seventeen Paisley shawls made in Scotland which she wore on notable occasions. Her personal style greatly influenced the British fashion of the day.

Paisley had a dip in its popularity at the beginning of the 20th century, but it has again bounced back. Paisley handkerchiefs are popular and items from clothing to wallpaper have kept this ancient and unique pattern in high regard in the world of fashion.

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

SARAH JOSEPHA HALE-A REMARKABLE WOMAN IN AMERICAN HISTORY

Many have regarded the Victorian Era as an historical phase with frock-coated men and wasp-waisted women protected and cosseted by those gentlemen. Enter Sarah Josepha Buell Hale, who as editor of the best-selling magazine, the Godey's Ladies Book (magazine), before the Civil War changed the way women behaved, thought, and acted.

Hale was an intellectual and was persistent, to the point of stubbornness, but these traits helped make her successful. Through Sarah Josepha Hale's writings and opinions, and with the blessings of popular Godey's Ladies Book editor and publisher, Louis Godey, the world of women at that time was brought in to be part of the existing climate with its customs and current events.

The popularity of Godey's Ladies Book was in large part due to its tendency to go against common thought and bring up points that made better sense than the other's side. The magazine thrived on controversy and these new thoughts and ideas worked to bring about change in ordinary women's status in their daily and professional lives. So, the question may be, why is the name Sarah Josepha Hale not a household name like Martha Washington or Eleanor Roosevelt? Her name should be among the top list of women in American history due to the things she accomplished that prove the point.

Sarah Josepha Buell was born in Newport, New Hampshire in 1788. She was taught to read and write by her mother and later by her husband. She was the mother of five: three sons and two daughters. It was not until after her husband died that Sarah began to ask questions, to require answers, to give worthy ideas room to grow and be acted upon. All the good efforts that define Sarah Hale came after she turned forty. From the age of forty until she died in 1879 at the age of ninety, Sarah Josepha Hale brought about changes in the existing world of Victorianism. Below is a list of many of her successful ideas that came to fruition.



Sarah Josepha Buell Hale
Portrait by James Lambdin, 1831

She was responsible for making Thanksgiving Day a national holiday.

She was a champion of education for girls' elementary school education and to continue that schooling through the upper grades, just as boys did.

It was she who worked to have women public school teachers.

Working with her friend, Matthew Vassar, Vassar College became the first school of collegiate rank for women.

It was she who coined the term "domestic science" which brought respect for housekeeping.

She began the fight to retain property rights for women.

She was one of the first to advocate for society for the advancement of women's wages, better working conditions and the lessening of child labor.

She was the author of Poems for Our Children which includes the nursery rhyme 'Mary Had a Little Lamb'.

Hale started the first nursery to help working women.

She was the first to speak up for women's physical training and exercise and to call for public playgrounds.

She fought to have health and sanitation improved for all.

Hale organized and headed the Seaman's Aid and established the first Sailors' Home.

She sent out the first women medical missionaries.

Her efforts raised money for the Bunker Hill Monument and helped preserve Mount Vernon, George and Martha Washington's Virginia home.

Sarah Josepha Hale was indeed a remarkable woman. Hail to Sarah Josepha Hale.

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

FRAN LAUTENBERGER saw an ad in the newspaper on day and

The Centerville Historical Museum has a fine and varied collection within its walls. Visitors who come to the museum are genuinely pleased to see what is inside and the reviews are very positive.

Enter Fran Lautenberger, a Tuesday volunteer, and her group of sewists. They check out, repair, and keep the old and fragile clothing pieces in excellent condition.



A few years ago, the museum ran an ad in the local paper asking for volunteers. Fran saw the ad and came to visit and take part in a mini workshop. When she saw the number of mannequins, the number of dresses and other clothing, hats and shoes, so well preserved in their special acid-free boxes, she decided to become a volunteer and joined the weekly sewing group who worked on the museum's apparel collection.

Fran is a talented woman. Having been interested in theater for most of her life, she soon found that the acting part was not her best talent, but designing and sewing the costumes for the productions was. She says she "sort of fell into it" while attending Rutgers University as an undergrad and then the University of Connecticut where she obtained a Master of Fine Arts for costume design. As she describes it, "It found me. I absolutely adored it."

Fran studied the history of costume design. She also learned how to make costumes correctly and well. "It is not just a costume," she states. "By paying attention to meticulous detail, the costume helps the actor with his character and how to make him better in that character."

"The museum's overall woman's clothing collection," Fran says, "is very impressive by the number, the variety and the condition of it all."

As she works with the clothing, she connects with its history, whether it is a fancy ball gown or a woman's housedress. If the dress is handmade, it represents the woman's personality by way of its design, its hand stitching, the time involved and the purpose of the dress and whether it was made to nurse a baby, be at home, have guests, go out for shopping or into society.

"A woman's dress represented her," notes Fran, "You get to know her. It may not be a Chanel dress, but it is an expression of her and how she lived her life."

In the Ayling Room hangs a portrait of a woman in an expensive Fortuny couture gown, which was handsewn not by one but many specialized seamstresses. It is in sharp contrast to the many handmade and preserved daytime and evening dresses that are part of the museum's vintage collection. Fran Lautenberger is impressed with Centerville Museum's well cared for vintage clothing and its different styles. Come visit the museum and see for yourself a display of Fran's choices from the years 1895 to about 1930 in the Phinney Room exhibit *The Pace of Change*. You will surely enjoy it.

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

MILTON HERSHEY - AMERICA'S NUMBER ONE CHOCOLATEER

Milton Hershey was born in 1857, in Hockersville, Pennsylvania, to a Mennonite family who raised dairy cows on the family farm. From a farming family to the founder and head of the Hershey Chocolate Company, he was a genius. He made chocolate, an unknown quantity until the 1890's, except for a milky chocolate liquid drunk in delicate cups by the aristocracy in Europe, the talk of the world.

Hershey discovered chocolate when he attended the Columbian Exposition of Chicago in 1893. At the time, Hershey dealt in caramel and had a caramel store and factory in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. At the Exposition, he met with a man from Dresden, Germany, who had a display of chocolate making equipment. Fascinated, Hershey bought Lehman's entire display and had it shipped to Lancaster, Pennsylvania and the Hershey chocolate company was born in the back corner of the caramel factory.

To advertise this new discovery, Hershey then bought a Riker automobile, the first horseless carriage in Lancaster, had "Hershey's Cocoa" printed on the sides of that electric car, and then toured the state for a year, introducing the public to what they were missing: chocolate.

With the success of his chocolate business multiplying, Hershey decided he had to build his own chocolate factory. He bought land in Derry Township, between Harrisburg and Lancaster, recruited workers, paid them a decent wage, built their homes from his own designs and created the town of Hershey. For example, he built the Hershey Amusement Park, complete with roller coaster, outdoor swimming pools, an elegant theater where traveling companies of Broadway theater still appear: The Cocoa Inn, a downtown hotel, the Mediterranean style Hershey Hotel that overlooks the town and a hospital. Beautiful flower and rose gardens are everywhere. The Hershey Arena was and is a gathering place for ice skaters and featured the Ice Capades, Ice Follies, and an ice hockey farm team, the Hershey Bears. The result today: Hershey is a delightful town, with Cocoa Avenue as its main street.

Hershey and his wife, Kitty, had no children of their own, but probably the greatest accomplishment of Milton Hershey was the homes and farms that surrounded the town, all owned by Hershey's company, which were havens for homeless, no parent, or one parent children. Through a generous trust fund, each child gained a free education, even through college and beyond. The Hershey Industrial School is a training school for those who wish to go into industry or pursue other work endeavors.

Hershey lived modestly. He planned businesses that would support his community and town, not the other way around. His neighbors worked at Hershey Foods. The surrounding dairy farms also profited with the company's purchases of local products, such as fresh milk.

Today Hershey Foods is a huge company, which now includes other famous names in chocolate treats such as Reese's Peanut butter Cups. The Mars company is its biggest competitor. From a candy store in a small town, to its international name, Hershey Foods is supreme and its founder, Milton Hershey, is a man to admire.

From the desk of CHM newsletter writer a former resident of Lancaster, PA



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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Bernard Lebow / Swg, Inc, Centerville

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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.



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