

CHEQUAQUET LOG

Newsletter of the **CENTERVILLE
HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

CHM is named #1 Hidden Gem Museum in Massachusetts.

COME JOIN US FOR THESE EVENTS

5th Annual **CENTERVILLE OLD HOME WEEK**

CAR SHOW

Centerville Historical Museum



FREE

SATURDAY 9 AUG 8AM - 2PM

50/50 RAFFLE • LOTTERY GAME • FOOD & DRINKS

CAR SHOW IS LOCATED AT THE RECREATIONAL BUILDING ON MAIN STREET
CENTERVILLE FROM 8AM-2PM

REC. PARKING LOT 524 MAIN ST, CENTERVILLE

About the talk:
Using a slide collection of the people, places and events surrounding Centerville's history, Bob Wenger will present a snap shot of Centerville's Main Street.

BOB WENGER
will talk on
Historic Centerville



Wednesday,
August 6, 2025
5:00pm

admission
\$8. members
\$10. nonmembers

centerville historical museum

Centerville Historical Museum's Main Street Walking Tour

(Historic Sea Captains: their homes, lives and lore)

The tour features histories of those who lived in these homes:
the facts, the lore, the inherited tales

Saturday, August 9th

Two one hour guided tours: 11:00AM & 1:30PM
Limited to 10 people per tour. \$10 pp check or cash at the door.

The Centerville Historical Museum Presents

Eat, Chat and Learn

yummy soup, mingle with friends or make new ones, expand your horizons

This month we are pleased to welcome Mark McLaughlin. Mark is a History teacher at Barnstable High School but has also manned Barnstable's beaches for 30 years as a lifeguard. As Captain of Barnstable's Lifeguard Competition Team, he led them to 12 Championships, including 11 consecutive victories until the competition's ending because of Covid and a lack of participants due to a shortage of lifeguards on Cape Cod. Today, he will be speaking about how lifeguarding has shaped his personality, character, and life, including building lifelong relationships with coworkers and beach patrons. He will also be promoting the importance of staffing our beaches and the responsibilities of lifeguarding as it has become a fading opportunity for young people to become involved in something truly special.



Wednesday, August 13th, doors open at 12 noon.
Suggested Donation \$5. Limited capacity, so come early to get your bowl of delicious soup and a seat at the table.

First come first serve no reservation required, museum tours available after the talk for an admission fee.

Lecture: 19th Century Centerville, Wednesday, August 6th, 5PM
Annual Vintage Car Show, Saturday, August 9, 8AM – 2PM
Main Street Walking Tour, Saturday, August 9, 11AM & 1:30PM
Lecture and Lunch with Mark McLaughlin Wednesday, August 13, 12PM

VISITOR TESTIMONIAL

RENAISSANCE GROUP IS OUT AND ABOUT AGAIN!



The Renaissance group of the Cape Cod Synagogue spent a wonderful afternoon recently at the Centerville Historical Museum. The visit started off with “Lunch and a Lecture” with Cape historian and author, Nancy Viall Shoemaker, who spoke to the group about the famous women of Centerville’s past.

Following the talk, the group was treated to a private tour of the 14-room museum which included a recreated 1860s one-room country

school and an 18th century reproduction of a colonial kitchen. Standing out was the thoughtful, creative latest exhibit, “Trains and Trains”, which features elegant, historic train gowns (from the museum’s vast collection of historic clothing) alongside a recently loaned trove of antique Lionel toy trains.

The group was fortunate to watch a demonstration by the talented volunteer seamstresses of how the beautiful vintage clothing is repaired and preserved.

Our 90-minute tour was not enough to cover all the delightful wonders housed in the museum. We will definitely be returning in the future. Many thanks to Director Randy and the wonderful volunteers who welcomed us warmly.

It is no wonder that this village museum has been named -



“The #1 ‘Hidden Gem’ Museum in Massachusetts”. It is, without a doubt, the perfect place to visit and bring family and guests of all ages.

Check the days and hours online and, if you call beforehand, you may be able to arrange a group guided tour.



A C A P E C O D N O T A B L E

A LOCAL BIRD CARVER WAS A STANDOUT

Few people are aware of the talents of a Cape Cod bird and duck carver, Anthony Edward Crowell. Born in East Harwich, Massachusetts, in 1862, Crowell lived on the Cape his entire life. As a youngster, Crowell was fascinated by nature and loved hunting during waterfowl migrations.

Crowell worked on his father's cranberry farm while growing up. While there he began to carve bird decoys and rent hunting stands to wealthy landowners from Boston. The stands were on a tract of ideal beach land his father owned on the south shore of Pleasant Lake. He preferred live decoys but also used his carved and block decoys. When the practice of using live decoys became illegal, Crowell turned exclusively to his decoy carving skills.



Crowell soon realized his handmade decoys were being sought after. By 1912, he had purchased tools, converted an old chicken coop into a workshop and officially declared himself a full time decoy carver, a profession he continued for the next thirty years. His timing was perfect due to the passage of a series of federal and state hunting laws aimed at bird conservation. His focus was

now on shore birds, miniatures, ornamentals, decoys and decorative bird models. His skills set the standard for other aspiring carvers.

Assisted by his son, Cleon, Crowell added decorative fish plaques and hand built duck boats. His reputation spread throughout America and around the world. Customers included Henry Ford, Herbert Hoover, the DuPont family and many other notable personages.



Father and son worked together until 1943 when Elmer's health began to decline. Cleon continued carving decoys until his death in 1961.

What made the Crowell decoys so special was the precise carving, whittled from wood and colored with native tints so true to the original subject that experts were amazed at the finished product, so close to the real thing.

New England has its artists, its musicians, its writers, its entertainers and many other professional standouts. Uniquely, Elmer Crowell and his son Cleon used their talents, their patience, their love for nature, to carve their way to prominence, to make bird and duck decoys the envy far above

what others had tried before, to become the name respected by their peers and those who pursued the same craft.



THOUGHTS FROM OUR WRITER

A BARELY KNOWN HISTORICAL FIGURE WHO NAMED CAPE COD

We all know historical figures who discovered distant lands long ago; Christopher Columbus, Ferdinand Magellan, Amerigo Vespucci, come to mind. A new name popped up recently and he should join the list above as he discovered and named Cape Cod. He is Bartholomew Gosnold, who was born in England in 1571 and who died there in 1607. He was highly educated as he graduated from Cambridge University, was a barrister, a privateer and an explorer all in one.

Born in Suffolk, Gosnold can be described as bright, active and with a curious spirit. His younger brother, Anthony, had a similar personality and the two went on adventures together, while a cousin, also named Anthony, decided he wanted to be in on the fun, too. All three were great friends.

In addition, college friends, John Brereton and Richard Hakluyt were eager to explore unknown places. Brereton was the first Englishman to land on New England shores. Along with Brereton and Hakluyt, the Lord Mayor of London at the time, Gosnold knew Sir Walter Raleigh. He was also related, through his wife, to Sir Andrew Judd, a wealthy London merchant and a former Lord Mayor of London whose family was related to Thomas Smith, one of the founders of the Virginia Company.

Gosnold's early sailing experience is unknown. However, he must have had good credentials to be entrusted with a ship to sail to southern New England with plans to colonize the area. It has been said that Gosnold had accompanied the Earl of Essex on Azores voyages. As the British government did not financially sponsor any voyages, Gosnold had to raise private funds to back his venture. Gosnold got a lucky break. Opinion was rising that British colonization of distant lands was good for Britain. Virginia was listed as one of the prime regions to explore and colonize as its climate was similar to that of England's and the fishing was viewed as highly profitable.

In 1602 Gosnold obtained enough funds to sail to New England and establish a small fishing outpost, with twenty men staying in the area over the winter. Upon landing on the southern coast of what became Cape Elizabeth, Maine, they were greeted by "savages of swart color." The next day Gosnold sailed in a southerly direction and came upon what is Provincetown today. He named the area Cape Cod as the waters were teeming with codfish. Sailing on, another island was discovered and Gosnold named it Martha's Vineyard for his deceased daughter and for the island's wild grapes.

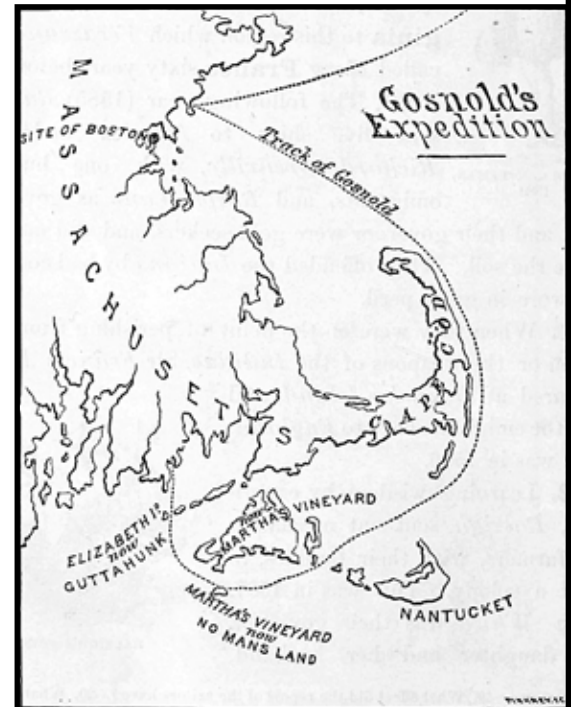
Throughout this trip, the natives in the area were eager to trade furs and ornaments for friendship and European ways, something Gosnold did not want. Gosnold and his crew sailed around the area, looking for a place to build a fort. Relations between the natives and the European became quite strained. Gosnold and his crew decided to return to England due to the hostilities.

Gosnold, after his return to England, tried to gain permission from King James I by exclusive charter for a Virginia Company to settle a new

colony, Jamestown, in Virginia. Four months after landing and helping design and build the fort at Jamestown, Gosnold died. George Percy, a fellow Englishman at Jamestown, wrote "Captain Bartholomew Gosnold, one of the Councile, he was buryed thereupon having all the ordinance in the Fourt Shote off with manye vollyes of small shot...."



The CHM newsletter writer.



EXHIBIT



Take a mini walking tour of Main Street in pictures

On display are fifteen Main Street Centerville homes depicting a then and now format. Early photographs were taken between 1864 and 1920 and the accompanying later photographs were taken in 2016



RESTORATION PROJECT

museum volunteering

Enjoy the camaraderie with others - Help us support this great museum.



Brown calico dress with cape, beautifully hand-sewn with minute stitches. Circa 1790. Material color is coffee brown with small geometric pattern of figures in rust, aqua and cream colors. Long sleeves joined to bodice with fine cording, similar cording at sleeve wrists. Fully lined with coarsely woven muslin. Front opening extends into skirt 13-1/2", skirt hem facing of brown plaid cotton with hand pinked edges. Skirt gathered into 1-3/4" waistband. Unlined cape, corded and hemmed all around. Dress worn by Welthea Lewis, daughter of Elijah and Ruth Bradford Sampson, descendant of William Bradford. Welthea Lewis was buried in 1806 in Burial Hill, Plymouth.



This colonial era dress recently went under the sewist needles. The database file which contains the condition notes stated 'there are two broken places in skirt back, several small holes, minor tears at waist, hem and dress front and cuff.'

Sewist Carolyn having just finished an 1880 quilt restoration wanted to work on "something other than a quilt". She picked this garment. Typically with these types of problems the best and most non-intrusive procedure is to cover the compromised area with micro netting, (see blue oval). This material is strong and prevents the area from additional wear.



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

Daily Paper Restaurant, Hyannis

Daniel Lewis Architect, AIA, Centerville

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Scott Peacock Building, Inc, Osterville

Talin Bookbindery, Yarmouth Port

Twins Plumbing, Marstons Mills



Become a member, get the benefits, support a great museum.



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