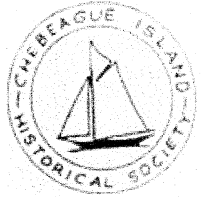


THE SLOOP'S LOG



Newsletter of the Chebeague Island Historical Society

Fall, 2001

Volume IV, Issue 2

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

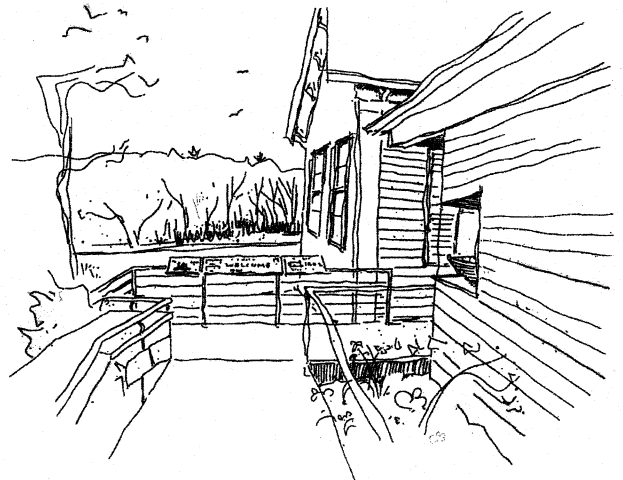
By Phil Jordan

In the past few months, the Chebeague Island Historical Society has entered a new era. The Museum of Chebeague history, once a dream, is fast approaching physical reality. The fund raising success of the year 2000, for which many generous donors are to be thanked, has been followed by success in building design during 2001, with working drawings now finished and a contractor selected. It is our expectation and resolve that work on the renovation will begin this fall, continue during the winter and get completed by the end of next June. As CIHS members should already know, our historic East End Schoolhouse will be preserved and adapted to museum use, while the garage annex will become entrance, welcoming, work and storage space. Chebeague will join the other Maine islands which celebrate their heritage through historic buildings and exhibits mounted therein.

The monthly meetings of the Historical Society have always been interesting, but recently have been especially well attended and notably participatory. The programs offered this past summer and early fall have engaged the attendees in active responses and contributions to the topics. This year in discussing Architect, Carol Wilson's plans for the museum, reacting to Jim Millinger's field trip to and researches into Central Landing, joining the story telling session in August and remembering with Jane Frizzell the Watch School and Clock Factory at the East End, members have transformed these occasions from lectures or performances or show and tell by individuals into interactive community experiences. This kind of active engagement of Chebeaguers in shared memory and understanding of our history is exactly what we want for our new museum and future society gatherings.

On September 11 we as a nation entered a new era marked by horrifying and tragic events, a new sense of vulnerability and yet also an inspiring show of spirit. The terrorists' attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, together with the consequent acts of heroism, the resurgence of national patriotism and unity, and the nation's resolve to lead a global effort to eradicate terrorism, have touched Chebeague Island as they have the entire country. These events make all the more important cultural institutions which help define what it is to be American, illustrate our values and record our enterprise, courage and resiliency.

The Chebeague Island Historical Society and the Museum of Chebeague History will have greater significance in this new era for Americans.



Entrance to the Museum of Chebeague History

RENOVATION UPDATE

By Al Whitaker,

Building Liaison Team Chair

Hold your hats!

The Chebeague Island Historical Society School House museum renovation project is moving forward at a fast pace. The Project Architect, Carol Wilson, working in conjunction with the Building Liaison Team, has completed the schematic design for the schoolhouse Museum of Chebeague History. This design was presented to and adopted by the CIHS Board of Trustees earlier in the summer.

As designed, the renovated structure will find the original school house recast as a museum, consisting of a research room and a multi-purpose exhibit space. The latter will correspond to the original large classroom space. Plans are underway to develop exhibits that will reflect on various aspects of the Chebeague story.

The schoolhouse itself is being treated, in a restorative sense, as the principal artifact of the Society. The old Town Garage annex will be adapted for use as storage and workspace. One part of this, designated as controlled storage, will provide fire-protected and

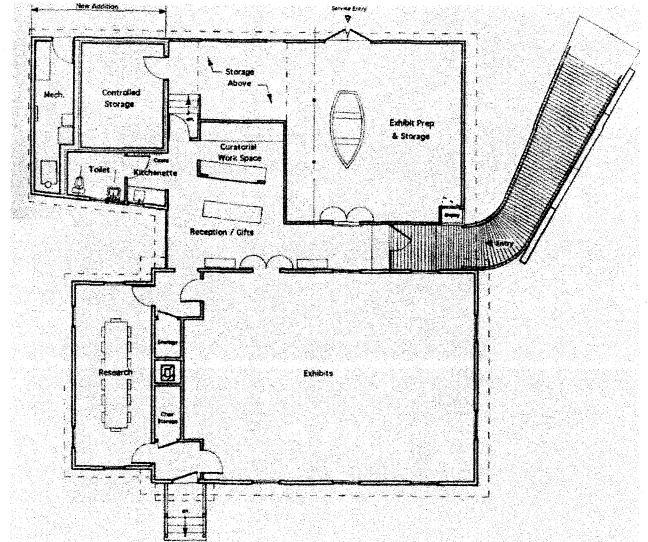
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environmentally-controlled space for the storage of valuable records, fabrics, and other like materials. The annex as redesigned, also will provide space to permit working on archives and artifacts.

Linking the School House and the Annex will be an inviting entrance and hallway into the building with window views into both the Museum and the storage space.

Construction documents (drawings and specifications) for the renovation also have been completed. With these as a guide, the Building Liaison Team conducted a search for a contractor to undertake the renovation work. Interviews were conducted with all interested parties and the firm of John Thaxter was presented to the Board of Trustees as a recommendation and unanimously approved at the October meeting.

A renovation schedule has been adopted tentatively which would have the project completed by mid-summer, 2002. Perhaps our Fourth of July Parade next summer will be able to salute, in passing, an old School House given new life!



The architect for the project is UJMN and Carol A. Wilson Architects. The project was designed by Carol Wilson with help from project team member Tom Hall. Tony Junker has been invaluable in guiding the Historical Society to an understanding of museum design, artifact storage and design of museum exhibits

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

by Jim Millinger

The Collections Committee has been busy going through our present holdings. Our artifacts from the Higgins Farm, given over the years by Alden Hayden and Pommy Hatfield, were moved from their storage in the old Curit barn on Bill (now Dan) Swann's property to the Museum. These items range from bean shellers to harnesses and include an eel spear, a hay saw, and a few yet to be identified objects! They will become a part of a future exhibit representing the shore-side, farming life, under the theme "Making A Living on Chebeague". Under the leadership of Nancy Sharp, a team of Marianne & Dick Brenton, Sue Burgess, Dot Colbeth, Jim Millinger, Al Whitaker, and Betsy Whitman made sure that all the items were listed and given accession numbers. We took digital photographs of all the items as they were moved into the Museum.



Can you identify this?

In a winter-months project, Jim Millinger and Martha Hamilton made a shelf list of the materials now in the Archives Room in the Library. Martha, as a member of the Board of Trustees, has joined the Collections Committee and will undertake the major project of identifying individuals whose photographs are in the many albums which the Library and Historical Society hold.

This summer, Betsy Whitman continued her tremendous undertaking of diligently indexing ALL of our written materials, presently stored in the Library. Our written materials are kept in acid-proof boxes, and Betsy had laboriously gone through every box and indexed its contents. This is a marvelous and most helpful contribution!

Least visible is the work of the members in committee. We have written a collections policy to help guide the Society in what we will and will not collect. We have been reminded, in our efforts by Al Whitaker that we should collect, not accumulate, and we have suggested to the Board a number of themes to which we might collect which would be the basis of future Museum exhibits. As this summer's project, the Collections Committee examined many boxes of not-yet accessed books and materials, and came up with recommendations for the Board.

These projects are designed to get "our" house in order so that once we have transformed the schoolhouse and the "annex" into our Museum by installing the floors, insulation, wiring, piping and walls, we will be ready to invite the community to see our treasure (the schoolhouse, now Museum) and some of our treasures (items from the holdings which we now have), and invite you to bring your treasures, which you have been saving "up attic" to give to the Chebeague Island Historical Society. Finally, we will have the space to store, care for, and display them!

REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

By Kenneth Hamilton

The impetus for this article occurred many months ago when there was media coverage of some flag burning and other forms of American flag desecration. I could not believe that anyone would do such a thing. In my view it was a slap in the face of every veteran who had served his or her country under that flag. Of course there were attempts to get a constitutional amendment passed to ban this sort of thing. Upon some reflection I decided that maybe those involved had no idea what the flag meant to so many who went away to fight the enemy during wartime. If a soldier, marine, or sailor found time to question why they were lying in a foxhole with explosives going off over head or lying in a bunk aboard ship waiting for a torpedo to land in the next bunk, the answer I believe was family, hometown, and the American flag-our symbol of freedom. I suddenly realized that even the WW II era to which I belonged was so far in the past it was being forgotten. The duty and sacrifice of our own island boys and girls was not known. As a member of the Chebeague Island Historical Society, I feel it is our duty to try to record all that is possible about those veterans in regard to dates, places, activities, branch of service etc. before it is too late for family members or others to recall those historic times. With that in mind the following is the beginning of a permanent record that can be kept in the archives of our new Historical Museum.

Robert L. Wheldon

Deceased

Bob graduated in 1937 from Chebeague Island High School. He was employed as a mechanic for United Air Lines in New York when he signed up for military service in the American Air Force. A newspaper clipping reveals that Bob was home on leave at age 23. At that time he had already flown 40 missions as a flight engineer - gunner on a B-26 bomber in the Mediterranean Theater and thereby could wear the Air Medal and seven oak leaf clusters, Good Conduct and pre-Pear Harbor enlistment ribbon.

He participated in the first historic air raid on Rome. He had a hydraulic line shot out on his plane which he helped repair with "chewing gum and a tourniquet". He was involved in some bad landings, one in which the co-pilot was killed. One time I asked Bob about the survival rate on those bombing missions. His answer was "Shoot, it was mostly luck. The lucky came home the unlucky didn't."



Clifton H Thompson

Resides Manomet, Mass.

Clif graduated from Chebeague Island High in 1942. He immediately tried to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corp. but was rejected because of dental problems. He then enlisted in the U.S. Merchant Marine. He trained with them for three months receiving seamen's papers, lifeboat ticket, and a passport.

Clif still wanted to enlist in the Marines so he got his dental work taken care of and joined the Marine Corp. He received training as an aircraft mechanic and aerial gunner, served nine and a half months in the South Pacific with a B-24 Re-con Squadron attached to the First Marine Air Wing. He was in two major campaigns; the Consolidation of the Northern Solomons and the taking of the Bismarck Archipelago. Clif contracted malaria at this time and was quite ill. He was sent back to Cherry Point, N. Carolina. He was discharged in 1945.



FROM THE ROAD

At one time you could see this house from the road. Do you know who owned it then and now?

(Check out the sky light!)

Lewis C. Ross

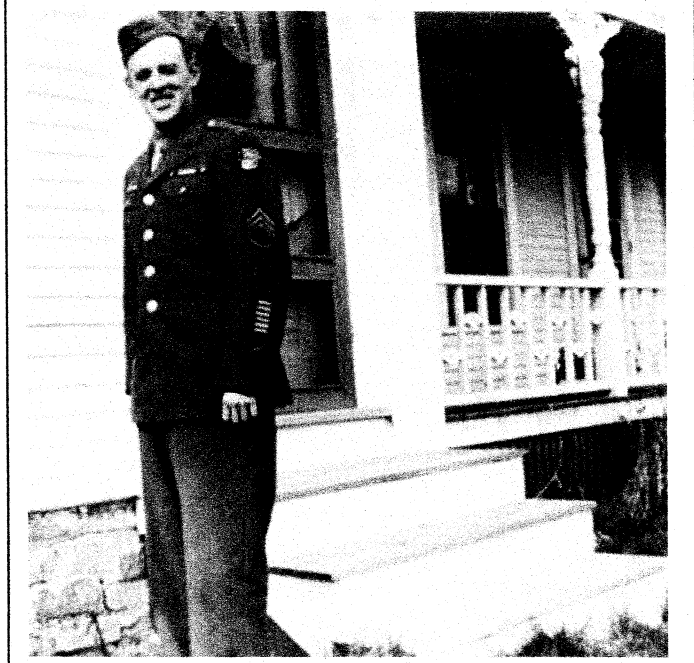
Deceased

Lewis graduated from Chebeague High School in 1936. He joined the Army Air Force in early 1942 and was in the 321st. Bomb Squad, 90th Bomb Group Air Force Pacific, also known as the "Jolly Rogers".

Lewis received his training at Fort Devens, Barksdale Field, Shreveport, La. and Greenville, S.Car. He was stationed at Willow Run Mich. where the Ford plant was to build B 24 bombers. He left for the South Pacific from Camp Stoneham, Calif., stopping at Oahu, Christmas Island, New Zealand and on to Australia. Lewis enough time here to obtain a deep dislike of lamb.

Lewis' detachment was assigned to building airfields and army barracks. His outfit would move in as soon as the enemy was pushed back so that work on the air strips, barracks, latrines, etc. could begin. He worked in Port Moresby, Dobadura, and Lae in New Guinea. Then on to Mindura in the Phillipines, the Bataan Peninsula Lewis cut lumber in the Phillipine National Forest, then on to Subic Bay and Lingayan Gulf. Landing craft took them to the Ryukyu Islands where Lewis came across the crude beach marker put up earlier by soldiers to mark the spot where a snipers bullet had killed Ernie Pyle. Lewis obtained the rank of sergeant and was in charge of a group of military construction workers. He told me once of his fight with another sergeant who was in charge of the showers. Water was rationed, so the sergeant would not let Lewis' men take showers. The water was being saved for the officers!

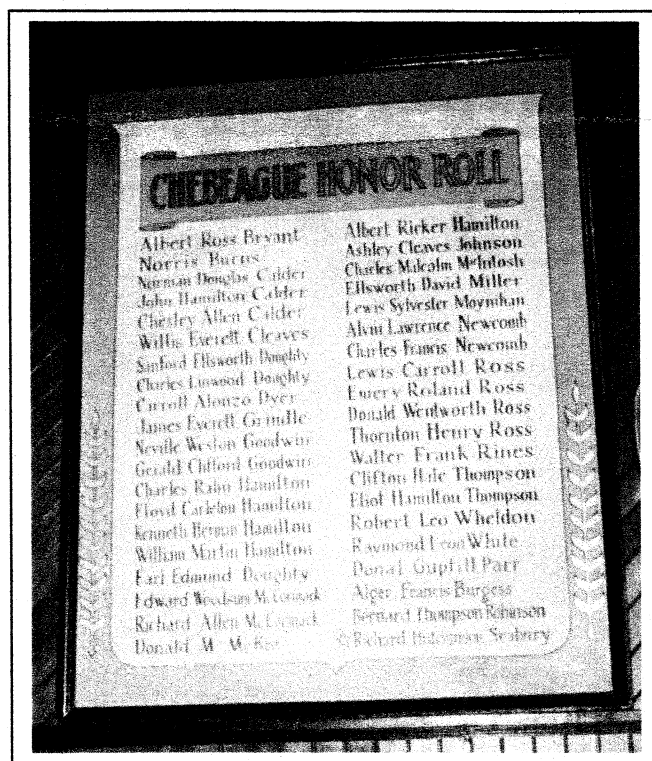
Lewis was discharged and returned home on Oct. 6, 1945.

**Earle "Rory" Campbell**

deceased

During the W.W.2 conflict Rory went into the merchant marines. He was serving as quartermaster aboard the merchant ship, Black Point when she was torpedoed off Block Island, Rhode Island. The torpedo struck aft and blew the stern off the ship. "Eleven men (mostly navy gunners) and a monkey "lost their lives. Three destroyers were on the scene quickly and were able to sink the submarine. The crew including Rory managed to lower the lifeboats and make it to shore safely.

A few years later Rory was aboard the Oakie Alexander carrying 8,200 tons of coal when she went aground off cape Elizabeth, Me. The "Oakie" was battling high winds and snow outside Portland, Me. on Mar. 3, 1947 when the seas split her apart and she lost 150 feet of her bow. The Captain managed to beach the ship on the ledges on the Cape where the Coast Guard took thirty two men off safely by breeches buoy. Even though these sinkings are both scary and serious there is often humor if you look for it. As an example, after the Black Point was sunk the crew needed clothes to wear home. The only clothes that could be provided to them were "striped prison suits" to wear home on the train. That must have given their wives a shock and a half.



The four autobiographies above were chosen as a beginning of a military history because they were the easiest to document. They come from the Honor Roll at the church. I fervently hope that family members, or whoever, will search and mail whatever they can find to us. If it were only the branch in which they served, dates, and rank would be very helpful. We do not want to leave out veterans of Korea, Viet Nam, or Desert Storm. Send to Ken Hamilton, Box 7, Chebeague Island, Me. 04017 Since starting this project a terrible terrorist attack occurred in New York. Once again the American Flag has become our main symbol of unity and patriotism. "Long may she wave".

NOW.....
The Folks from Philadelphia Arrive
The Development of a Summer Colony

By Donna Miller Damon

As America entered the Twentieth Century several summer houses had been built on what we now know as the Cottage Road. The families of Dorticos [now Mead]; Ridge [now Shattuck]; and Morse [still Morse] were summering in their cottages and the Howells [now Hulbert] summered in the original Joel Ricker farm house. More than one hundred years later their descendants are still enjoying the westerly views from the same houses! It was a quiet existence down at the end of no where. The North Road ended at the Little Chebeague Bar and the present Cottage Road was nothing more than a cart road through a field. But these summer rusticators from Portland and Baltimore apparently didn't need the hustle bustle of the hotels at the East End.

The neighborhood was about to change and the story of how it came about is the topic of this edition of **Now and Then**.

Even since I coined the phrase Summer Native back in the 1980's I have been fascinated by the stories of how summer folks ended up being so emotionally entwined with the island of Great Chebeague. The following is the story, told to me by Morgan Ash, of how Ellis Ames Ballard came to Chebeague and created Chebeague's only summer estate which came to be known as Khatmandu.

It all started back in the late 1890's. Mr. and Mrs. John Morgan Ash II, from Philadelphia, were visiting friends in South Freeport. They decided to go for a row and headed for Chebeague. A summer squall blew up and they came ashore on Chebeague's East End drenched and looking for shelter. They found a room at the Orchard Cottage (now Nottebohm's) which was then just a small Federal cape farmhouse. They left with pleasant memories and over the winter decided that they wanted to visit Chebeague again. Mrs. Ash contacted her friend, Margaret Stewart and they decided to load up their bags and babies and spend the summer on Chebeague. In those days one traveled on trains, trolleys, steamships, and horse drawn taxis just to reach the Portland waterfront to buy a ticket down the bay.

The first challenge of the trip came at the ticket window when they went to book passage to Great Chebeague and the ticket agent asked them which landing on Great Chebeague. They were very surprised to find that there was more than one!

Leaving their options open they bought a ticket to the end of the line, which at that time was probably, Littlefields later known as Central. This was just the first of many discoveries, for come to find out, they had made no real plans beyond arriving in Portland.

The ladies got on the boat in a torrential rainstorm and decided between them that they would get off at the first landing that had a covered livery wagon! This they did and when safely aboard the driver asked them where they were headed. They looked at each other and Mrs. Ash confidently told the driver to proceed to the Orchard Cottage. (It was the only establishment she knew on the island.) He quietly informed her that the Orchard Cottage was full and that there was not a room to be had anywhere on Chebeague. Once she got her composure she confidently repeated her instructions. They arrived at the Orchard Cottage, she went inside, and after awhile of negotiating she was able to secure lodging for the night. She told the driver that she wanted him back at 10 AM so they could find a house to rent for the summer. He shrugged his shoulders and mumbled under his breath that there were no houses to be had.

The next day the driver was back at 10 AM and the two ladies in lawn dresses boarded his wagon and set out to find a house to rent. They had no more than started down over the East End Hill when Mrs. Ash and Mrs. Stewart ordered him to stop in front of the house at the bottom of the hill. The driver was aghast. That was Captain Hill's new house. That house was not for rent! But once again the determined ladies from Philadelphia could not be deterred. And sure enough within a half-hour they were outside asking that their bags be brought to the Hill house that they had rented for the summer!

They loved Chebeague and the next summer they planned ahead and found their own accommodations. Margaret Ballard Stewart told her brother, Ellis Ames Ballard, about Chebeague and it was not long before he visited his sister's island paradise. That summer they rented the Capt. John F. Hamilton house on the East End [now Gwillim]. They loved the large old farmhouse with its more than thirty acres of land, deep water and smooth sand beaches. Ballard made Hamilton an offer, but Hamilton was unwilling to sell his ancestral home.

.....and THEN

[Ballard was a few years early for Hamilton did sell the house and land to Merriam-Horne, a Portland realtor a few years later.] Ballard was determined to find a place on Chebeague, so he and his wife Nina rented a carriage and set off driving over the island's clam shelled roads in search of a summer place. Ballard family tradition picks up here and the story goes he was driving west on the North Road as the sun was beginning to set. He looked up and saw a hill above the road and said this is where I will build my house and he did.

In the fall of 1901 his wife, Nina bought what had originally been the Wentworth Ricker farm and more recently the Mansfield farm. When spring came the cellar was dug and the masons went right to work on "Ballard's summer cottage". [This is described in the 1902 day book of John A. Hamilton, which is in the collection of the Chebeague Historical Society thanks to the generosity of his descendant, Marianne Hamilton Durgin.] At the same time a crew went to

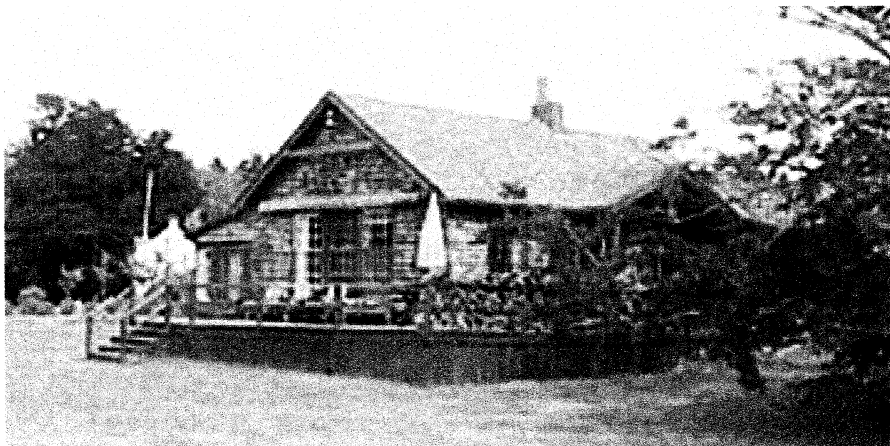
for his sister, Margaret Stewart who had brought him to this special place. [Now Stavropoulos. Susie is the granddaughter of Margaret Stewart.]

It wasn't long before Ballard had created an estate with caretakers' houses, a working farm, a tennis court, mini golf course, boat house and saltwater swimming pools. He wanted his children to experience country living on a salt-water farm. While many islanders worked for Ballard over the years Walter and Lizzie Curit were as much a part of Khatmandhu as the Ballards. Ballard's, daughter-in-law Elizabeth, wrote in her memoirs that her children learned more from the fishermen and farmers in Maine than they did in the best boarding schools in the East. Ellis Ames Ballard contributed much to the Chebeague community, was a founder of the golf course and tried to keep the hotels a float long after their days of glory had ended. Chebeague would be a different place today if fate had not intervened and helped those two strong willed ladies from Philadelphia find a room in the inn!

Khatmandhu is currently owned by several of Ellis Ames Ballard's great grandchildren.



THE MAIN HOUSE AT KHATMANDHU



THE ELL MOVED NEXT DOOR

The Gift Shop Corner

Joan B. Robinson, Chair

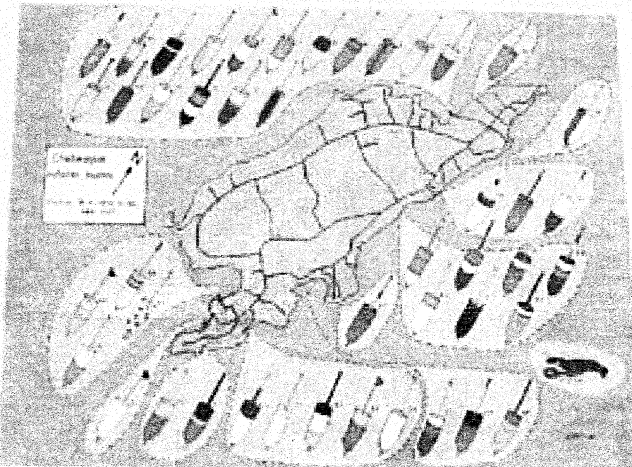
This year we added buoy place mats for \$6.00/per. They are very colorful. On the front is an outline of Chebeague with lobster buoys, on the back are the names of our lobstermen Mac Passano can take credit for a big seller!

We have 19 blue and cream throws presently. 50 more were ordered last January and I have sold 31 this summer. Get your order in before they are all gone! Another year we may order green and cream throws.

Magnets of Chebeague scenes are still available with a few from the play "Annie" with your favorite child on front.

School house pins, magnets and ornaments, as well as cracker pins, post cards, and post cards are available. Annual Newsletters, some years at a real bargain, are also available.

All of these exciting articles can be found in my entryway, but once we open the **Museum of Chebeague History**, that is where they will be. Give me a call and come pick them up. I am always home. Or come to the Craft Fair the Saturday after Thanksgiving at the Hall. I will also ship out items for a postage fee. **Have a good winter one and all!**



..... before they are all gone!

Limited amount of the 2001 Annual Newsletter

This is the Newsletter with the color centerfold of buoys of Chebeague lobstermen.

\$6.00 plus \$2.00 shipping

Order from Mac Passano, 168 South Road,
Chebeague Island, ME 04017

2002 Programs

A preview of programs in the works!

The Great Chebeague Bridge Debate

Who are Our Ancestors? – A Cemetery Tour

Island Indian Basket Weaving

Island Churches – Where and When

Stone Wharf – lecture at sight and in Hall

Check the Spring Edition of **the Sloop's Log** for details.

Donations at free programs help defer expenses

THE CHEBEAGUE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization

Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law

PLEASE REMEMBER US IN YOUR END OF YEAR GIFT PLANNING

Gift naming opportunities for the Museum of Chebeague History are still available:

<i>Educational Exhibition Center</i>	<i>\$100,000</i>
<i>Storage Exhibition Center</i>	<i>\$ 50,000</i>
<i>The Archival Center</i>	<i>\$ 25,000</i>
<i>Welcoming Center</i>	<i>\$ 25,000</i>
<i>Technology/Media Center</i>	<i>\$ 25,000</i>

Already donated:

<i>The Family History Center</i>	<i>the Layng Family</i>
<i>The Cupola</i>	<i>the Gilmartin Family</i>

Your support is appreciated!

Historical Society Funds

ENDOWMENT

*Why not honor or remember a loved one
with a memorial in their name?*

MARGARET BATES BOOK

ARTS & CRAFTS

Memorials will include interior furnishings.

COBB/SMALL

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