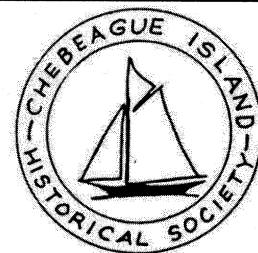


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# THE SLOOP'S LOG

Newsletter of the Chebeague Island Historical Society

Volume XI, Issue 1



## Message from the Vice President

*by Jane Frizzell*

Greetings, fellow Chebeague enthusiasts. We hope you enjoy this issue of the Sloop's Log. I would like to start with GET WELL wishes for our Pres. Richard Bowen, who is recovering from a recent surgery. I would also like to extend, on behalf of us all, a huge THANK YOU to Jill Malony, who has been our Sloop's Log editor for many years. It hasn't been easy putting up with all those procrastinating contributors.

As you will read below, the CIHS is planning a summer exhibit on the history of schooling on Chebeague. Mimi Moulton, Nancy Olney and I decided that we would enjoy researching the really early history of schooling on the island. Since Cumberland, and therefore Chebeague, was part of North Yarmouth until 1821, we decided to visit the North Yarmouth Historical Society to look at old school records. The three of us sat looking through boxes of pretty ancient records and exclaiming, "You've got to see this!" We found among other exciting documents a petition written in 1817 from Ambrose Hamilton II and others asking the Town of North Yarmouth to divide Chebeague into two school districts. Donna Damon and I subsequently visited the Cumberland Town Office and found more wonderful documents, including a list from 1821 of fathers and the numbers of their children who were eligible for schooling on Chebeague.

These discoveries were much more fun than finding Easter eggs and almost as much fun as discovering that you've been good and Santa has been very good to you. I highly recommend this historical digging as being good for your health.

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## Chebeague Island Historical Society 2007 Exhibit

*Jane Frizzell, Exhibit Chair*

The threat of having to send our grades 4 & 5 scholars to the mainland for schooling was the issue that finally began a serious secession movement on Chebeague. As a result the CIHS Exhibit Committee decided that it would be a perfect time to look at the history of Chebeague schooling and how the community and the schools have influenced each other.

From the records of the Town of North Yarmouth we know that teachers were being paid to instruct on Chebeague as early as the mid-1700's. Several different school buildings existed on Chebeague throughout most of the 1800's. For many years during this time Cumberland's School Districts 8 & 9, the island districts, had greater school populations than any of the mainland districts.

Chebeague did not have its own free high school until 1902. Prior to that scholars would have been permitted to attend Greely Institute, the free high school on the Cumberland mainland. This would not have been easy and would have necessitated scholars boarding away from home.

Chebeague's population has risen and fallen over the years due to economic and other circumstances, but we have been able to keep our community and our elementary school above the high water. Times and expectations change, but we will continue to fight hard for our schools for the sake of individual scholars and of the community.

If you have any artifacts, old report cards, pictures, or tales of school days, please contact Carly at the Museum, 846-5237. Or contact any Exhibit Committee members : Jane Frizzell, Ken Hamilton, Martha Hamilton, Jim Millinger, Mimi Moulton, Nancy Olney, Joannie B. Robinson, and Sylvia Ross.

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## A Poem by Ray Hayward

I first met Ray Hayward in 1951. At that time I was operating the Casco Bay Lines boat, JOAN. As Captain of this boat, I had to stay over night on Birch Island. Ray had a summer cottage on Little Birch Island and I got to know him when he came to the Post Office after his mail. He was a real gentleman and most interested in all activities going on in Casco Bay. He and his wife, Dorothy, later moved to Chebeague where he became active in island affairs. He was a staunch Grange member, worked on the attempt at the Bridge to Chebeague and wrote several articles pertaining to that issue including Fish or Cut Bait. While a member of the Grange, Ray authored the first Monthly Calendar under the sponsorship of the island Grange. This is the same publication that has now been taken over by the Chebeague Island Council. He took a great interest in the welfare of the kids on the island and organized and coached a Little League ball team. At the close of their second season he wrote the following poem. The kids are now full grown men, but I think one would recognize most even if their names were not used. Some summer kids are named and if someone remembers who they are it would be fun to identify them.

- Ken Hamilton

### A Toast to Twenty-Three Tigers by Ray Hayward

The Tigers have scratched and clawed their way  
Through two exciting seasons  
I will never forget them  
For a multitude of reasons

The total list of candidates  
To join the Tiger company  
From the youngest to the eldest  
Has numbered twenty-three

Not all of them have stuck it out  
Through fair and stormy weather  
I wish that all were here tonight  
For our final get together

I'll not forget Wayne Shevlin  
I confess I got nowhere  
Though I did my best to get him  
To cut his Hippie Hair

Craig Grey had all the makings  
Of an all around baseball star  
He could pitch or catch or play first base  
I'll wager he'll go far.  
Last year a boy named Oliver  
Joined us for two short weeks  
With quiet capability  
He plugged some infield leaks



Dianne Calder photo

The batter hit a double but  
he didn't stop at all  
He knocked poor Brian off his feet  
But Brian held the ball.

And don't forget Rick Dyer  
Who pitched with all his might  
Whenever Ricky had control  
He sure was dynamite.

And there was Barry Riddle  
And smiling Andy Todd  
We all were disappointed  
When they had to leave the squad.

And I'll remember Little Chris  
As eager as a beaver  
He snapped up every outfield hit  
Like a well-trained sure retriever

Both Tom and Kevin Curran  
Supplied some competition  
By keeping players on their toes  
In more than one position

Here's to our Cubs; two Marks and Clark  
And the mighty midget, J.B.  
All eager and ready to fill the gap  
In case of emergency

Behind the plate in every game  
Was that fighting Tiger, Ed  
He had to block low pitches  
And some way over his head.  
His fighting spirit won him  
A place among our stars  
His courage is well proven  
By his many battle scars.

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At first in every game we played  
We had a guy named Mike  
When he struck out he'd always growl  
"That last ball wasn't no strike".

At second base was Gary Ross  
A slow but steady plugger  
As he gained confidence at bat  
He could become a slugger

A grasshopper at shortstop  
Jeff Hamilton by name  
He'd pitch or catch or play outfield  
In practice or a game  
Crouching in the batters box  
He always was a threat  
Though he didn't weigh quite 60 pounds.  
When he was soaking wet

Guarding third, the real hotspot  
Was conscientious Doug  
He covered half the infield  
As tight as any rug.  
He never loafed at practice  
He listened to advice  
When the breaks would go against us  
Doug kept as cool as ice.

This summer we found a new recruit  
His name is little Joe  
He's got more bounce than a jumping Jack  
A Tiger from head to tow.

Buddy Bourgeois covered ground  
In the outfield like a gazelle  
A fly ball had less chance with Bud  
Than a snowball in Hell.

Rounding out the outfield  
Was a boy with a dimpled smile  
A squeaky voice and a lumbering gait  
Like a tired crocodile  
When a ball was hit right at him  
He'd snare it with one hand  
But if it fell three feet away  
He'd smile as he watched it land

When it comes to practical jokers  
The one that I'd have to pick  
Is that unpredictable chatter-box  
The one and only Vic.  
He had more comical tricks up his sleeve  
Then any circus clown  
In any joker's contest  
He'd run away with the crown

In all our ups and downs, my friends,  
There is one thing that is true  
You boys have certainly given me  
Much more than I gave you.

Sometimes I've probably seemed harsh  
Or too strict, I suspect,  
But, I believe we'll always feel  
A mutual respect.

Tonight we're here to celebrate  
Our second season's end.  
I hope you'll all consider me  
A true and constant friend.



Dianne Calder photo

Looking for information on anyone married  
June 30, 1884 or 1984. Also for anyone who  
graduated from Prospect Park High School  
Class of 1940. Please contact Bill Calthorpe  
at [billcalthorpe@aol.com](mailto:billcalthorpe@aol.com)

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## What's In a Nickname?

by Jane Frizzell

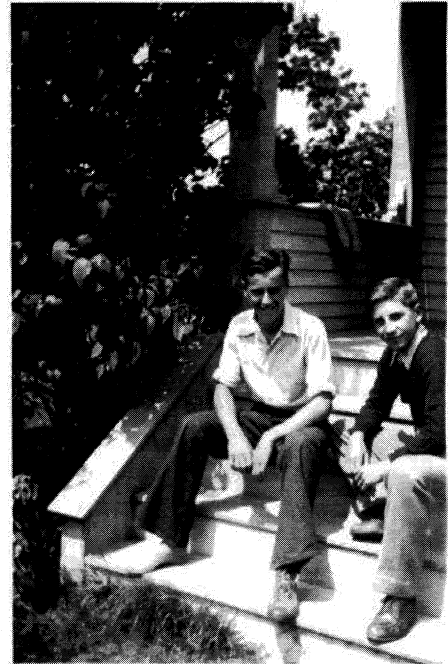
When I was growing up on Chebeague in the 1940's and early 1950's, my brother, William Tebbetts, would often head out the back door with the following parting words:

"I'm off like a dirty shirt!" To my young mind this meant the same as, "See you later."

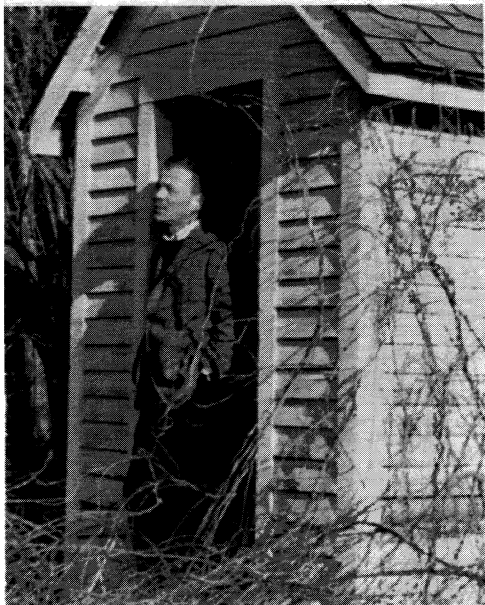
It was thus with the names of his friends. Many of them had the usual names like Jim or Bill or Larry, but many others had somewhat different names. As a 6, 7, or 8 year old these more unusual names sounded just fine to me. In some cases it was years before I knew the real names that their mothers had given them.

William is ten years older than I and was a teenager at the time. He was old enough to be hanging out and doing a little motorcycle riding with his buddies. So, he was out the backdoor to join Chirp and Skip and Brother and Pouchie and Sonny and Shant and Bud and Jesse James. My brother was known at the time as The Root. (For an explanation of that name check with Bill Munroe.) If you don't know all the others, do some asking around. Many of them are still on the island. Sadly several of them are no longer with us, but they are still well remembered.

My brother also gave me a nickname, which I will not divulge. Again, it seemed OK at the time; but I have no idea what the origin was and think it best not to ask at my present time of life as now it seems rather uncomplimentary. Or, then again, perhaps I will ask and just not tell.



Billy Tebbetts and Jim KomLosy  
Jane Frizzell photo



Mervin Sheketoff contemplates the world from doorway of Nellie Hill Hamilton's west outhouse c. 1967  
Cynnne Sheketoff photo

### Outhouse Stories

Even with the convenience of modern plumbing, the humble outhouse seems to hold an endearing and nostalgic place in our hearts and minds. Discussions of these privies in the Museum sparked the telling of "mischievous doings" on the night before the "4th." Unfortunately, the tellers of these tales have been willing to talk, but not to put pen to paper and record the names of the guilty. I will start off what I hope may become a series of future articles with an innocent story and hope that other tales will emerge from behind the door with a half moon. This is a challenge to you keepers of privy history. It was after all many years ago that these "mischievous doings" took place. Now you would get arrested!

### Northside Outhouse

Our outhouse was on the north side of the house facing Littlejohns and the wind coming down from Canada in the winter. There was a breeze-way, so to speak, from the house to the facilities; and, as the house sat high off the ground, so did the outhouse.

One of my earliest memories is of my mother taking the flannel-covered seat from behind the coal stove and accompanying me to the winter privy. The seat was a source of comfort much appreciated as the lift of the north wind and the pull of gravity fought over which would win the battle of the toilet paper.

At least we didn't have to worry about the local teens knocking it over or carrying it away on the night before the "4th" as it was firmly nailed in place.

-Jane Frizzell

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## Remembering Our Veterans

by *Kenneth Hamilton*

### Sherman Hamilton

Sherman, the oldest son of Leland and Elsie Hamilton joined the Navy in 1956. He received his recruit training at Bainbridge, MD. He then went to Machinist Mate School at Great Lakes, Ill. During the next several years he served on the USS HENRICO APA 45 and the USS THOR ARCH (a cable laying ship) He was in the Far East and had home ports of San Francisco and Portsmouth NH. He then went to Recruiter School and did recruiter duty in Bridgeport, Conn.

He went back to sea duty in 1965 serving on an ammunition ship (AE 25) transporting ammo to Viet Nam. 1967 saw him aboard the Destroyer, LLOYD THOMAS, (DD 764), in 1968 he was serving on the Destroyer escort, USS LESTER (DE 1024). Sherm changed ships again in 1969 and went aboard the Destroyer, USS BASILONE, (DD 824)

He came ashore in 1971 to be a company commander and instructor for recruits at Orlando, Fla. In 1975 he was again at sea assigned to the fast freight USS EDWARD McDONALD, (FF 1043) Sherman retired from the Navy after twenty years of service with the rank of Senior Chief Machinist Mate, pay grade E 8. Among the medals earned were the National Defense, China Service, Navy Expeditionary, Viet Nam Service, Vietnam Campaign (3), and the Good Conduct Medal(4).

He and his family now live in Yarmouth, Maine.



Sherman Hamilton receiving an award onboard USS Basilone, 1971

### Leon Hamilton

Leon, one of twin boys born to Leland and Elsie Hamilton, joined the Navy in 1967 and was sent to boot camp at Great Lakes, Ill. After a short tour on the destroyer USS COMP- TON he was transferred to Naval Supply Activity in Naples, Italy. For two years he operated an LCM (Landing Ship Cargo) replenishing ships off the Italian coast. He was discharged in 1969 from active duty, but remained in Reserves until 1974.

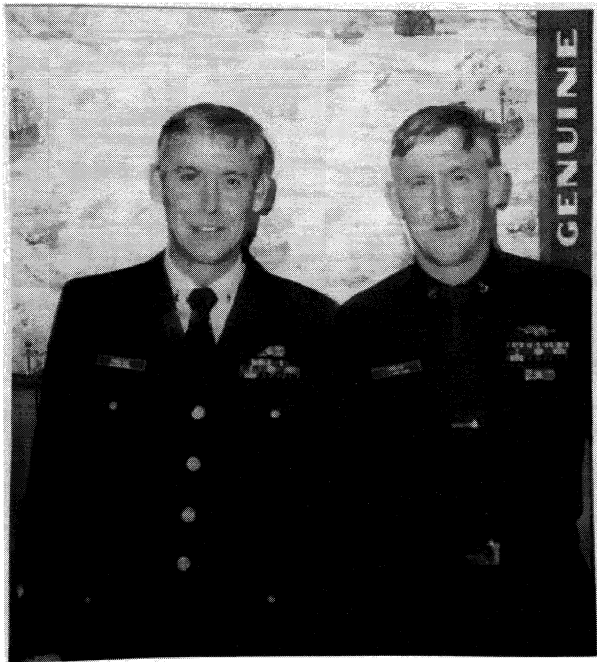
In 1978 Leon joined the United States Coast Guard as a Boatswains Mate 3<sup>rd</sup> class. Stationed in South Portland he was promoted to Boatswains Mate 2<sup>nd</sup> class and transferred to Coast Guard Group Portland where he served as Officer of the Deck handling search and rescue for Portsmouth, South Portland and Boothbay Harbor Stations.

Promoted to BM 1<sup>st</sup> class in 1981 he was transferred to the Coast Guard Cutter DUANE (WHER 33). The 327 foot cutter, sporting gold numbers, was the oldest commissioned ship in the US Coast Guard. For two years Leon did fisheries patrol, search and rescue, and drug patrols aboard this ship in the Caribbean Sea Area. 1983 saw him back at South Portland serving as Executive Petty Officer operating the 1<sup>st</sup> District Cable Boat servicing light houses and all fixed navigational aids from Governors Island, N Y to the Canadian Border.

His next promotion was to Boatswains Mate Chief and was put in charge of Coast Guard Station Niagara, just below Niagara Falls on Lake Ontario. In 1989 Leon was transferred again, this time to the Cutter, USS Cherokee (WMEC 165) in Norfolk, VA Two years later he was sent to Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War. He served as Division Chief of Port Security in Unit 303. The mission at this base was the protection of an Ammunition Depot utilizing high speed boats armed with high caliber machine guns and grenade launchers.

After Leon's tour in Saudi Arabia he was stationed at Boothbay Harbor, ME until he was transferred to the Individual Ready Reserve which is where he is today. He will be discharged from the United States Coast Guard as a Boatswains Mate Chief in December of 2007. His medals and awards include the National Defense Medal, Expert Marksman (Rifle and Pistol), Good Conduct Medal (3), Kuwait Freedom Medal, Southwest Asian Service Medal, Commandants Commendation Medal, and the US Coast Guard Unit Accommodation.

Leon is married to the former Jennifer Trower, daughter of Gordon and Margaret Trower. Leon and Jennifer reside on Chebeague Island where Leon is employed by the Chebeague Transportation Company.



Leon, BM Chief; Leland, MM Chief

### Leland Hamilton

Leland, one of the twin boys born to Leland and Elsie Hamilton, joined the Navy with his brother, Leon, in May of 1967. He attended boot camp at Great Lakes, Ill. In August he then went on to Machinists Mate School. In March he was sent to Naples, Italy to be stationed at the NATO Base at the International Car Pool where he drove a car for a three star General. Leland then served on the USS Nantahala, AO60, an oiler in the 6<sup>th</sup> Fleet out of Newport, RI as a MM3/c. He separated from the Navy in May 1971 and was discharged in May of 1973.

After a seven year break he joined the Coast Guard in 1980. His first station was at the Coast Guard Base in Southwest Harbor, Maine with the rate of Machinist Mate 3/c. In June of 1983, Leland went aboard the US Coast Guard Cutter Duane (WHEC 33) as a MM 2/c. In November of 1984, he was promoted to MM 1/c. and got stationed in Yorktown, VA as an instructor at the Machinist Mate School.

1987 found Leland serving on the US Coast Guard Cutter SPAR(WLB 403) out of South Portland, ME as a Chief Machinist Mate. He got promoted to Senior Chief Machinist Mate in 1993 and was sent to California to the US Coast Guard Cutter Hamilton (WHEC 715). In September 1995, Leland was stationed back at Coast Guard Base South Portland. He retired from the service in 1996 to Chebeague Island where he followed his father into the lobster fishing business. Leland died of a heart attack in 2005.

Leland's medals and decorations include National Defense Service Medal, Marksmanship Sharpshooter Ribbon (Pistol

and Rifle), Commendation Ribbon for Operation Eyebolt, Four Good Conduct Awards, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, Coast Guard Bicentennial Unit Ribbon and the Coast Guard permanent Coxswains Pin.

### Karen Hamilton

Karen Hamilton (then Karen Malysa) enlisted in the US Coast Guard in 1980. She went to Boot Camp at Camp May, NJ and attended technical training at the Navy Operation Specialist School in Damneck, VA. After graduation she received orders to the Coast guard Cutter Glacier (WAGB 4) in San Pedro, CA. This was the first year that the Coast Guard allowed women on the ice breakers.

This first tour sent her to Antarctica. She left California in October and stopped in Fiji, Wellington New Zealand, McMurdo Sound, Antarctica, Punto Arenas and Valparaiso, Chile, Lima, Peru, and Mazatlan, Mexico before returning to California in March of 1981. The duty of the ice breaker was to carry scientists to Antarctica to study the melting ice caps. The Cutter also cut a channel out of the ice into McMurdo and Scott's Hut so a Navy oiler could get fuel to the bases to provide fuel for the upcoming winter months. In November of 1981 she was transferred to Gloucester City, NJ to the Captain of the Port Division. She spent three years doing inspection boarding on foreign and domestic vessels and investigating oil spills. She separated from the Coast Guard in 1984 to take care of her two year old child, Sarah.

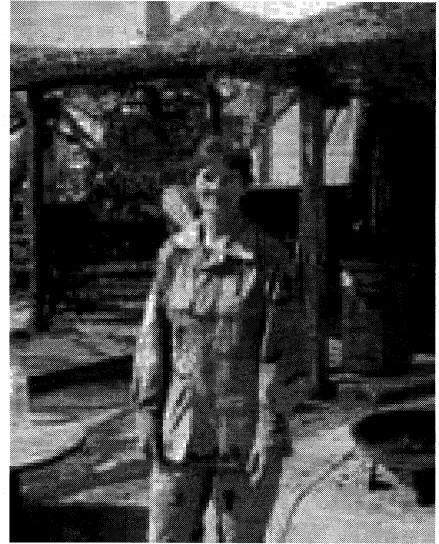
In 1987, Karen returned to the Coast Guard and was assigned to the USCGC, Boutwell out of Seattle, Washington. Her duties were in the Combat Information Center as a Radarman. This caused her to be involved in navigation, intelligence gathering, helicopter operation and control, boarding of fishing vessels and Search and Rescue. When the Boutwell went in for overhaul, Karen was then assigned to the USCGC, Mellon also out of Seattle, WA. Karen was promoted during this time from Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class to Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class and traveled the entire Aleutian chain of Alaska, Sitka, Juneau, Kodiak, Anchorage, and Homer, Alaska; Portland, Oregon; San Diego, CA and Guatemala. She was also the first female to graduate from the Navy Anti-Submarine Warfare Aircraft Controller School in California. With this training, her duty now was to control the flights of helicopters working Search and Rescue and the P-3 planes working Anti-Submarine exercises for the Navy.

In 1990, Karen left the sea going cutters to become a Coast Guard instructor at Yorktown, VA. She taught navigation, intelligence gathering, and ship maneuvering to more than 130 students. Karen was allowed to go on a NATO Exercise cruise with the USCGC Gallatin out of New York. The ship sailed with the USS Kennedy and her battle group to Europe where she went ashore in South Hampton, England;

Bremen, Germany and Scotland. Once back in Yorktown in 1992, Karen became the first female to be promoted to Chief Radarman . She put the anchor devices on her collar and was sent back to California to the USCGC Hamilton where she was put in charge of a division of eleven men and women. (One of the more exciting details of her next three years was the Haitian Migration in 1994 where over 22,000 people sailed out of Haiti in search of a better life in the U.S. Of the 22,000 picked up from the water by a flotilla of eleven ships, only five did not make it and the others repatriated back to Haiti.) In September the ship got a few days rest in Cartagena, Columbia, and then back through the Panama Canal to return home to California.

In 1995, Karen transferred to Portsmouth, VA to a computer testing facility. Her duties included testing new software programs, writing up trouble reports and finding solutions to fix problems, and the instruction of shipboard personnel in the operation of the new computers being placed on the cutters. In 1997, Karen separated from the Coast Guard to care for her newborn child, Anna. She moved up to Chebeague Island, Maine with her husband, Leland Hamilton.

After the birth of her third daughter, Trisha, Karen wanted to finish her military career, so in November 1999 she enlisted in the Air National Guard in South Portland, Maine. She went to Technical Control School in Mississippi for four months and got deployed later to Fort Drum, NY. for a communications exercise with the Army. In 2003 she was sent to Kuwait during Operation Iraqi Freedom. She spent four months there during the Iraqi War. In 2004 her unit was sent to England as part of a communication Exercise. In 2005, Karen was interviewed for the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant. In May of 2005 Karen took over as 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant of the 265<sup>th</sup> Combat Communications Squadron in South Portland, ME. That same day, her husband, Leland, died. Karen was not sure if she would stay in the military, but with the help of family and friends she continued on. Her plans are to retire in May of 2008 with over 20 years of service to her country.



Karen in Kuwait, 2003

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### Chebeague In Fact, Fiction and Folklore



Marianne Durgin, Vail Traina, Louise Doughty, Betsey Wemesfelder, Carol Todd Sabasteanski, and David Hill getting ready for the Historical Play in 1995. Please see page 12 for information on participating in the 2007 play!

Joan Robinson photo

## What can we learn from a Map?.....Chebeague in 1871

*By Jim Millinger*

[In the last issue we asked and answered some questions arising from looking at an old map .We promised to finish the observations in the next issue and so here it is.—editor.].

### Who is Missing?

Who, of more recent island families, is not on the island in 1871? Well, the Calders, Dyers, and Millers are not here yet. We see the beginnings of the Doughty family (2) and the Bennett, Bowen, Cleaves, and Ricker families (1 each )

### What does this suggest / reflect ?

The Hamiltons are prosperous (They own three businesses). They dominate the East End and do not live on the West End. The Littlefields predominate in the center of the island. The major fishing families of the Twentieth Century have not yet moved to the island

### The Roads ?

The North Road and the South Road as far as the West End School are pretty much as we know them. Note that the present South Road continuation from the West End School wanders to Deer Point and the Cottage Road is not yet built. There are three cross roads. The present Schoolhouse and Littlefield's are pretty much the same but the Roy Hill and Firehouse crossroads are yet to be built. The third crossroad seems to connect the Littlefield family homes and "their" Protestant Methodist Church.

### Significant Community Buildings?

Note the two schools with the West End School across the road from the more recent building. The Baptist (BAPT. CH ), Methodist Episcopal (M. E. CH ) and Protestant Methodist ( P. M. CH ) churches are very much in the center of the of the island ( for easy access for all?)

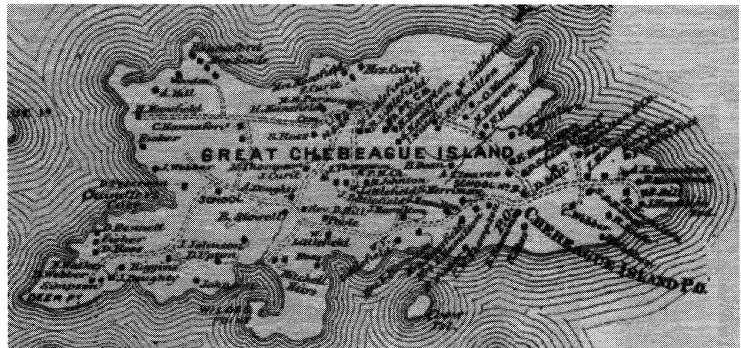
### Significant Place Names?

Only Chandlers Cove and Deer and Wildes (known today as Waldo) Points are named.

### One Hundred Years Later?

Finally, lets compare the named houses on this 1871 map with the voter registration roles of one hundred years later – 1972

<u>Surname</u>	<u>1871 Map</u>	<u>Registered Voters in 1972</u>
Bennett	1	6
Bowen	1	4
Cleaves	1	2
Curit	3	2
Doughty	2	18
Hamilton	16	16
Hannaford	2	0
Hill	4	4
Johnson	3	7
Littlefield	7	1
Mansfield	4	3
Ricker	1	0
Ross	5	14
Soule	2	0
Thompson	3	0
Webber	6	3



Cumberland County Atlas, 1871

CIHS Collection

It looks like the Bennett, Doughty, and Ross families have waxed, the Hamiltons are holding their own, the Littlefield and Webber families have waned, and the Hannafords, Ricker, Soule, and Thompson families have disappeared.

And families who weren't here in 1871?

	<u>1871</u>	<u>1972</u>
Calder	0	4
Dyer	0	14
Miller	0	6

\* The suggestions in this article are based only on the evidence provided by the map. Reflecting the times, this map refers only to surnames. A search of marriage ties as well as property deeds might present a different picture---particularly a wider influence of the Hamiltons due to women marrying men with different surnames.



**Photographs, Memories, and EBAY Discover the Greek Pageant of 1915**  
*Making Connections to Rediscover Chebeague's Forgotten Past*  
 by Donna Miller Damon



George Hicks Photo CIHS

It was July 1915. Mary Pickford was on the big screen at the Strand; W.C. Fields was playing at the Empire; while Francis Ford, "former Portland boy" and soon to be known as the accomplished director, John Ford, was starring in his newest film at Greeley's Theater. But the news on the Amusement pages of the Portland newspapers that July, heralded an extravaganza that boasted a cast of 400 local amateur dancers, singers and musicians and starred 1904 Cornell graduate and Broadway star, Robert L. Dempster. Written by Radcliffe graduate, Virginia Tanner, *The Adventures of Ulysses: A Greek Pageant*, was sponsored by the Congress Square Associates, a men's fellowship group that was associated with Portland's Congress Square Universalist Church.

Rose Cove on the shores of Great Chebeague was chosen for the Greek pageant of July 17 only after a careful study of the islands of Casco Bay made from the deck of a special steamer. The use of Casco Bay for an event of this sort is recognized by all students of the work as unusually fortunate.

Saturday of this week is the day of the pageant, which is attracting such widespread interest, and thousands will crowd the island to see *The Adventures of Ulysses* portrayed. As a spectacle the production will surpass anything of its sort attempted by Portland people, while as an instructive lesson its value is easily recognized (*Portland Evening Express and Advertiser*, July 12, 1915, 16).

Why would a Portland church go to all of the trouble to bring 400 actors, costumes, scenery and food to Great Chebeague Island in 1915? Cities all over America were performing pageant extravaganzas and Virginia Tanner was well-known as a dancer, director, producer. The *Casco Bay Breeze* called her "the greatest producer of pageants in America." She brought the Greek Pageant to cities such as Baltimore and wrote other pageants to commemorate American historical events that represented the spirit of the American colonial revival and the progressive movement of the

early twentieth century. In that context *Ulysses* might be considered an anomaly, but it could also be argued that America's democratic roots were in Greece. Pageants brought culture to the masses in terms of dance, music, literature, theater and art.

The Congress Square Associates, while part of a church fundraising group, were also some of Portland's leading businessmen. They engaged the assistance of all of Portland's clergy who in turn encouraged their young parishioners to don the Greek garb. The associates also arranged for special rates on the Maine Central and Grand Trunk Railroads hoping to bring "people from all over the State and opportunity not only to witness the artistic classic, but also the chance to see Portland...and hundreds of tourists will avail themselves of the reduced rates to visit Portland and Casco Bay for several days" (PEEA, Ju 16, 17). The Associates' agenda was clear. The Greek Pageant was a vehicle to promote Portland, so it is not surprising that tickets were available at the Chamber of Commerce and one of Portland's leading department stores, *Porteous, Mitchell and Braun*.

## The Greek Pageant

At Great Chebeague Island

### Saturday, July 17th (All Day)

PLAY BEGINS AT TWO-THIRTY O'CLOCK.

**Casco Bay Steamers Every Hour**

Tickets Positively Limited.

On Sale at Chamber of Commerce Branch Office, 588 Congress Street; Porteous, Mitchell & Braun Co., 522 Congress Street. Casco Bay Steamboat Co., Office, Custom House Wharf.

The Eastern Argus July 13, 1915

Special trains were scheduled to bring people into Portland, and combination tickets that included transportation were available. Potential clientele were encouraged to buy their tickets early, because space was limited. The Congress Square Associates put "safety first," so they did not want to overcrowd the event or the transportation system.



Chebeaguers also hoped to benefit from the Pageant. Fred Komlosy hung his paintings in Bowen's Souvenir Store on the East End, and no doubt island hotels and businesses hoped to reap a benefit. "The lands on which the Pageant takes place are those of the Littlefield homestead, a fine old lawn sloping gradually from a high sandy beach. The owners tendered the associates a free use of the field for the purpose. On Great Chebeague (they) recognize and appreciate the splendid publicity given the Island as a whole" (CBB, July 15, 1915).

Photographs of prominent Portland men and women in Grecian garb graced the society pages of *The Portland Sunday Telegram* on July 11. The paper reported: There will be 1000 reserved seats, and 20 boxes for the entertainment of the distin-

guished guests, among whom will be President Wilson, if he decides to accept the invitation of the committee; Governor Curtis (whose wife, Edith Hamilton, was born on Chebeague), Mayor Ingraham, Admiral Peary, Clara Louise Burnham, the authoress, and other notables all with their parties of summer people and guests. "No man in the present generation has been more celebrated or widely known than the intrepid explorer (Admiral Peary) and thousands will be glad to see him at close range as a spectator of this superb presentation of "The Adventures of Ulysses." (CBB, July 8, 1)

More than one hundred volunteers made intricately constructed and trimmed replicas of the imagined wardrobes of the ancient Greeks. "It should

be remembered that not only will the costumes of those taking

part in the big classic be of Greek style, but everything in connection with the scenes will be of the design of the period of the immortal book" The drama was complete with competition. Portland's most accomplished athletes not only were dressed in Greek costumes and reenacted Greek games, but they actually competed for prizes giving the event an air of authenticity (PEEA, July 2, 2-3).

The extravaganza required two dress rehearsals, which meant hiring the *Aucocisco* and transporting approximately one third of the cast to Chebeague on the Tuesday before the performance, as well as the entire cast of four hundred including the forty-piece Coast Artillery Band on the Thursday before the show.

Mr. Dempster went to the pageant grounds at Great Chebeague in a private launch, going carefully over the water and land course that he is to figure in... (he) is shipwrecked and his crew is lost and he swims ashore.



Mr. Dempster arranged in very careful detail just where the vessel is to be sunk and carefully noted the place he is to reach after his vessel is to be sunk and carefully noted the place he is to reach after his vessel has gone down. In the hands of so masterful an actor it is agreed that this especial scene will be a marvelously interesting one. (CBB July 8, 1)

On July 15 director, Virginia Tanner and some of the principals left Portland at 7 AM to ready the grounds for the rest of the troupe. They brought Grecian chairs, pedestals and even a Grecian boat that would be sacrificed during the shipwreck scene! Although the cast was primarily from Portland several Chebeague summer girls were among the dancers. Olive Webster, Elizabeth Ash, and the Albion girls were pictured in the Portland papers. Despite the large number of participants the papers reported that the selection committee was still receiving applications from Portlanders eager to "take part in the beautiful production...and swell the vast throng that that will delight the audience" (PEEA, July 14, 12). While some Chebeaguers attended the pageant, the majority of the spectators were expected to come to the island from Portland and summer colonies around the Bay. The *Advertiser* reported that "every resort in the entire bay with the exception of Great Chebeague will look like a deserted village" on the day of the show. The Casco Bay and Harpswell lines adjusted their schedule for the day. Boats left Custom House Wharf hourly and five steamers were scheduled to leave at 1 PM in time for the 2:30 PM show. The roadway leading from the landing (Central) to the pageant grounds (in front of John and Sam Birketts near the Boatyard) was carefully rolled and sprinkled.

The entire outdoor amphitheatre is at present covered with a velvety green grass, which will be mowed three or four times before the event occurs. The fine solid turf will also be rolled, and that part of the grounds forming the stage will be smoothed for the hundred of dancers who will, under the direction of Virginia Tanner, present the most spectacular and artistic out-door production ever attempted in Maine or indeed all New England (CBB July 8, 1).



MR. ROBERT DEMPSTER, Of New York, who has been chosen by the Congress Square Associates for the chief role in the big outdoor pageant at Chebeague, July 27.

Portland Sunday Telegram July 1915

The Town road crew was engaged to upgrade the road leading to the Pageant even though part of it was on private property, but a summer rainstorm compounded the challenge for Chebeaguers:

The storm of last Thursday evening did havoc to the roads all over the island and one of the oldest residents told the writer that it was the greatest rainfall he ever saw. The storm of last week completely washed out the private road on the Littlefield property, which extends from the main road to the wharf at Central Landing. Tuesday and Wednesday of this past week it was entirely rebuilt by Road Commissioner Herbert Hamilton and crew of workmen. Thursday evening, however, the storm completely destroyed the new road and the wash-out was so complete that travel of all kinds had to be suspended until it was again repaired. The main road leading to Central Landing was destroyed at the end nearest the wharf and road commissioner Hamilton was obliged to build a new road of about four feet deep the entire length. The repairs on the road here cost at least \$200. All over the island are places that will need immediate attention and Mr. Hamilton is using all expediency possible to get the work completed (*CBB, July 15, 7-8*).

On July 15 the *Casco Bay Breeze* described the the setting in great detail:

In the selection of Rose Cove, Great Chebeague Island, for the production of this artistic and unique Pageant no mistake was certainly made. With Casco Bay and the adjacent islands for its setting the audience will view the stage, or the Grecian Court Scene, with the blue of the Ocean and the gray of the rocks and the deep green foliage in the distance, a stretch of silvery, sanded beach in the immediate background of the stage with hundreds of Portland's fairest young maids and gallant young men dancing and singing on the green out in the open, surely a scene incomparable will be had by those who are privileged to witness the performance.



The mayor of Portland sent special policemen to Chebeague and several prominent Portland doctors and nurses were in attendance. A medical tent was set up with Red Cross equipment. Fishermen throughout the bay were expected to transport patrons, who planned to spend the day on Chebeague exploring the island and visiting its shops. Refreshments served at the Pageant were organized by women's groups affiliated with the Congress Square Universalist Church. Records of the *Annex*, a ladies aid type organization, show that one of their members, Mary A. Charleson,

offered her Chebeague home, *Armordale*, (now Levy/Goodman) as a place to make the fish chowder that the group planned to sell at the pageant. The *Casco Bay Breeze* reports that actor, Dempster, stayed at Charleson's boarding house.

Recreational boaters from the Portland Yacht Club and the Portland Society and Club were encouraged to attend and contempo-



rary photographs by Chebeague photographer, George Hicks, show the anchorage full of boats of all descriptions decorated for the occasion. On board spectators had a front row seat to watch Ulysses and his men sail out from behind Crow Island as well as observe the shipwreck that followed. Perhaps the most exciting element of the production was the arrival of the chariot that was driven "at breakneck speed for fully a mile along the glittering sandy beach which borders the pageant grounds" (*PEEA July 16, 1915, 17*).

July 17 finally arrived. The sun was shining and expectations for the pageant were high. The actors were in their places; box seats were built; the boaters arrived; the crowds began to gather; the steamers dropped off their passengers; and the unimaginable happened- it rained! The sky opened up as it sometimes does in the summer and the rain poured down on the spectators and the performers. Following the old adage, the show must go on, Tanner led her troupe through their performances with grace and dignity, despite the fact that the dancers were sinking up to their ankles in the mud and the rain soaked garb resembled "a parade of horrors" as the *Portland Sunday Telegram* reported on its front page on July 18, the day after the show:

(Despite the rain) The setting was picturesque and truly classic. The big, green stage was backed by Doric pillars, beautifully draped, and was furnished with classic chairs, couches, incense urns etc. The beach and the waters of the bay just beyond furnished a fine setting for the shipwreck of Ulysses and the chariot drive of Nausicaa (1).

The Congress Square Associates were not deterred by the inclement weather. By the time the Monday paper was on the streets they had decided to produce the pageant one more time. But this time they would look for a mainland location. And sure enough, the story of Ulysses was performed at Sturdivant's field on Cumberland Foreside in September. Trolley cars instead of steamers brought the audience to the performance which ran for two days in brilliant sunshine.



Tom Clarit, cartoonist, PEEA, July 19

## *In Search of the Greek Pageant!*

*Back in the 1970s I found a panoramic photograph of an event. Boats were decorated; people were in costume; scenery was in place; tents were visible and a wall was blocking*

*what looked like Camp Providence. I quickly realized that the event was near what is now the boat yard. I asked around and couldn't find anyone who knew anything about it, until one day I showed it to my aunt, Rachel Sanderson. She told me that her mother had taken her to a performance there that had actors and tents. She had never seen a real actor before, so it left an impression. She told me that it was the summer before the family moved to Freeport, which would have been 1915 when she was nine. That was all that she remembered. I asked my father about it and all he knew was that he remembered seeing some people rowing a Viking ship. He would have been 5 in 1915, but he also remembered a movie being made at some point on Sandy Point. Was he confusing the two events?*

*Through the years I have tried to solve the mystery of the photograph, often wondering how the actors and the Viking ship fit into the story, but I was at a dead end—until one February day in 2007, when I found an ad for sale on EBAY. Some unknown seller wanted \$8 plus postage for an ad describing a Greek Pageant that was to be held on Great Chebeague on July 17. It was 2" by 3" but that was too rich for my appetite. I realized the type closely resembled the Eastern Argus, a Portland paper on microfilm at Portland Public Library. I couldn't wait to try out my theory. If Aunt Rachel had been right all I would have to do is look at July 17, 1915 and I should find a reference. That I did, and there it was!! Since then I have read all of the Portland papers for that time period, as well as some of the records for the now defunct Congress Square Universalist Church. I have discovered more about Virginia Tanner, Robert Dempster and pageants than most people ever need to know, but what fun! The crowning jewel in my research crown was when I recently stumped four of Portland's best known historians, none of whom had never heard of the day when the entertainment spotlight of Maine shown brightly on Great Chebeague!*  
DMD

## *Coming Soon!*

### *A Chebeague Pageant for the 21st Century*

Chebeaguers have always been putting on shows, so it seems fitting that we should produce an updated version of the 1995, Historical Society's production of *Chebeague in Fact, Fiction and Folklore* as well as excerpts from the hilarious hit, *How the Creeks Came to Be*. The original production of *Facts* had a cast of more than forty, while the entire school entertained the community in the story of the *Giant Clam*. That was in 1995--12 years ago. The youngest actors are now in high school and the rest of us are, well twelve years older, but we are ready to try it again! The play will be performed the end of June or the first week of July as part of the big celebration when Chebeague becomes the newest town in Maine!

The play is a series of short skits that require very little rehearsal. The lines and songs are easy to learn. You only need to come to the rehearsals of your scenes until the dress rehearsal. The time commitment is minimal, but the fun is infinite! We also need costume, props and scenery for you really creative folks!

Skits have been written by Sylvia Ross, Donna Damon, Tyler Putnam, Tom Damon, Simon Brown, and James Vaughn. The show will be directed by Sylvia, Donna and Rachel.

Now we just need the actors! We are hoping some folks will be willing to reprise old familiar roles, but there will be plenty of parts to go around! Like the Greek Pageant, no warm body will be turned down!

**Please** call Donna 846-5140 or Sylvia 846-4117--ASAP if you would like to participate. Last time we were still writing scenes up to a week before to accommodate all of the people who wanted to participate! Like the Greek Pageant, no one will be turned away because of lack of talent, because we believe we all have a latent bit of ham in us!

Please come to an organizational meeting on Sunday May 7 at the Museum at 6:30 PM.

But please call to sign up so we will have a part for you. All are welcome whether you live on Chebeague, summer here, or are an occasional visitor--**WE WANT YOU!**

**School Trip to Washington, D.C. 1949**  
**Classes '49-'50**

*By Sylvia Ross*

Joy swiftly spread throughout the Chebeague Island High School now that it was confirmed, that, on Saturday, April 9th, at 9:00 am, the Junior and Senior classes and their teacher, Mrs. Anna Allen, would be leaving Portland for Washington, D.C. on a Chartered Deluxe Greyhound Bus Tour, including stopovers in New York City; Philadelphia, PA; Annapolis, MD; and Alexandria, VA. The Tour manager, Mr. McGrath, would be accompanying the students, and others holding tickets (twenty or so adult passengers from out of town).

The eight lucky students were: Juniors; Minnie Rich (MacNeill) and Alfred (Freddy) Ross. Seniors were: Ida (Mickey) Hamner, Anne KomLosy (Thurlow), Elizabeth Stilphen (Ross), Louise Rich (Todd), Sylvia Hamilton (Ross) and Ernest Cassirer, a protégé of Dr. George Lowenstein, the island physician.

Once reaching Washington, DC the students realized that this was no dream- that much more was in store for them... Outside the doors of the Senate Chamber of the Capitol in Washington DC, the eight students were greeted by their own senator from Maine, Margaret Chase Smith. Also, she personally presented each student an autographed passcard to the Senate Chamber, where the 81st Congress was holding sessions, and the students got a good peek inside the Chamber.

To ascend the steps of Lincoln Memorial, and to confront the massive statue of Abraham Lincoln, was thrilling, indeed for all of the students, who had finally reached their destination; Washington, DC. Then, the same day, descending eight hundred and ninety-seven steps from the top of Washington Monument was a memorable experience and a lot of fun besides. --Yes, there was an elevator.-- All monuments and state buildings were beyond

expectation.--so much to digest in such a short time--everywhere...a learning and breathtaking experience. The Luray Caverns, spectacular! The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Naval Academy---stirring moments. Mount Vernon-- beautiful! In PA., a delightful visit to the Betsey Ross House, and then to Independence Hall for a close-up view of the Liberty Bell, which was awesome! Not on our itinerary, but a great addition to it, was a pre-planned meeting with Sylvia's brother, Theron Hamilton. He was in the Navy, stationed in Norfolk, VA and had obtained a two day pass. He was waiting at the entrance of the Taft Hotel to greet the students when they arrived. He accompanied his sister, along with his former schoolmates, during their first two days of sightseeing.

Who and what made such a trip possible for these young people? Without Mrs. Allen, probably it would not have happened. Her dream was, that her students would take this trip to Washington, DC, and she would go with them. She made all the contacts and reservations- now it was up to the parents, and the children, and herself to do more fund-raising. The Chebeague Island Hall, in the year of '49, no doubt, witnessed more school plays, concerts, movies, potluck suppers, dances, and salt-water taffy, than it had ever seen before!



Sylvia Ross Collection

Itinerary

**Saturday April 9th**

Leave Portland, Lafayette Hotel at 9:00 A.M. in our special deluxe motor coach of the Greyhound Lines. Day's ride via Boston, Providence, New Haven, to New York, arriving about 6:30 p.m. where hotel accommodations will be provided at Hotel Taft for the night. In the evening, a 1 hour tour of National Broadcasting Company will be provided. We will visit the largest radio studio, N.B.B. newsroom and see how realistic sounds are produced on the radio, how television works, and view other interesting features.

**Sunday April 10th (Palm Sunday)**

Morning is free to attend church services, stroll on Park and Fifth Avenues. Leave New York at 12:30 p.m. via Philadelphia, Baltimore to Washington arriving at 7:30 p.m. Accommodations will be provided at the HAMILTON Hotel.

**Monday 11th**

Visit public buildings, including the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Smithsonian Institution, New National Museum, Mellon Art Gallery and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (F.B.I.) Afternoon- Short session in the Supreme Court, Capitol, Pan-American Building (seeing Spanish Patio with the tropical plants and birds; and the model of Panama Canal.

**Tuesday 12th**

Leaving Washington, we visit Front Royal, the northern entrance to Skyline Drive where we turn south. Enroute we see many beautiful views of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and we arrive at Luray Caverns. Leaving Luray Caverns, we re-cross the mountains for return to Washington.

Wednesday 13th

Morning is free. At 1 p.m., a tour of Arlington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon is provided, proceeding via the White House, stopping at Washington Monument, and Lincoln Memorial, across the Potomac to Arlington National Cemetery, where the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the National Amphitheatre is seen... Then to Alexandria, (oldest incorporated city in Virginia) seeing many historical points of interest, along Mt. Vernon Highway to Mt Vernon (home of George and Martha Washington). We return via the Airport and Jefferson Memorial. In the evening, a visit is made to the Congressional Library, where beautiful murals and paintings are seen to their best advantage under artificial lighting.

Thursday 14th

Leave Washington about 9:30 am for short ride to Annapolis, MD where a brief tour of points of interest is made, including US Naval Academy, continuing to Philadelphia, where hotel accommodations will be provided at Benjamin Franklin Hotel.

Friday 15th

In the morning, a tour (two hours) will be provided, including Independence Hall, Old City Hall, First Supreme Court of the United States, and many other points of interest. On returning from the tour, lunch will be provided at Wanamaker's famous tearoom. We leave Philadelphia about 2:00 p.m. Arriving in New York by 4:15 where hotel accommodations will be provided by Hotel Taft. In the evening, we will visit Billy Rose's Diamond Horseshoe, where a full course dinner will be provided, dancing may be enjoyed, and a one hour excellent floor show may be viewed.

Saturday 16th

Leave New York at about 10:00 am. Due in Portland about 8:00.



Back: Louise Rich, Anne KomLosy, Sylvia Hamilton, Elizabeth Stilphen, Ida Hanmer, Minnie Rich  
Front: Mrs. Anna Allen and Freddy Ross

Sylvia Ross Collection

### Commemorative Cover for Birthday

Gina Ross, our Postmaster, has arranged to have a special cancellation honoring our new Town's Birthday on July first. There will be a special "station" of the US Post Office at the town meeting at the Rec Center, with a unique cancellation for anyone wishing to mail from that site on this momentous occasion.

And the Historical Society will provide a unique decorated envelope for the occasion. It shows a map of all of the islands of the new town, made by the well-known artist Jane Crozen (a native of Cumberland), and with the distinctive Acadia National Park postage stamp. Order as many of these as you want from us, with the names and addresses of every recipient, and we will get them cancelled and mailed for you. Each stamped and mailed envelope costs only \$2.00, and all the profits go to the Island Celebration Committee as the Historical Society's contribution to the birthday party.

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Carly Knight & Ken Hamilton - editors

Museum of Chebeague History: 846-5237 or [history@chebeague.net](mailto:history@chebeague.net)

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**Come Visit This Year's Exhibit Showing Education on Chebeague Island**



First Row: Manley Doughty, Fisherman; Kendra Hamilton McKinnon, Workers Comp Case Mgr/Paralegal; Billy St. Cyr, Trucker; Sissy Kuntz Tonks, Treasurer Large Trucking Co.; Gene Robinson, Fisherman; Stewart Townsend, Volunteer Organist.

Second Row: Beth Ross Wiles, Human Resources Mgr, Trucking Company; David Campbell, Public Works/Fisherman; Wayne Dyer, Chebeague Sand & Gravel; Carol Todd Sabasteanski, Owner of a Finance Co.; David Miller, Fisherman; Bruce Riddle, Carpenter.

c. 1960, Ken Hamilton photo

New items this year will include added titles to our popular selection of children's books, a nature identification flyer series, items featuring sailor's ropework, and a calendar put together by Bill Laird featuring historic Chebeague photos. We will also feature commemorative items celebrating the formation of the new town of Chebeague Island including the first day cover, medallions, hats, pictures and magnets.



- \* Island Institute Journals and Stone Sloop books
- \* Postcards
- \* Magnets
- \* Gail Miller pins and keychains
- \* Chebeague Island throws
- \* CHS bags, mugs, and hats

We'll continue to carry items such as:  
 We hope that when you visit the Museum you'll take time to check out our Gift Shop area.



The Sloop's Log  
 Chebeague Island Historical Society  
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