

THE SLOOP'S LOG



Newsletter of the Chebeague Island Historical Society

February, 2004

Volume VII, Issue I

From the Desk of the President

by Donna Miller Damon

Well we did it!

We opened the Museum of Chebeague History on July 6, 2003. More than 300 people were on hand to participate in the festivities and to hear Earle Shettleworth give a great talk about Chebeague History. Since that time we have had more than 2000 visitors! The exhibit was finished before the doors opened (or actually as the doors opened!) and has received high praise from the media and museum professionals. The driveway has been paved. The lawn has been seeded and the grass is growing. The newly planted shrubs and trees have survived. The Time Capsule has been filled...Boy that is a lot to accomplish in a few months.

Thank you to the many people who made all of this possible and to all of you who donated to the capital campaign. This has been a real community effort! Watch the Calendar for more volunteer opportunities!

2004 will be the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Chebeague Island Historical Society. We plan several activities to commemorate the event!



Museum of Chebeague History Exhibits

by Jane Frizzell

As you have probably heard or read by now, the Museum of Chebeague History had a very successful first exhibit in the summer of 2003. Thank you one and all for your loaning of artifacts, for your help in building the exhibit, and for your enthusiastic attendance. We all enjoyed looking at a slice of life on Chebeague in 1878 through the eyes and diary of Mabel Clara Hamilton. (I think she would have approved.) Attendees came from Chebeague and from far away with stories of their connection to Mabel or other families on the island.

The 2004 Exhibit Committee is busy working on a new show for the coming summer. While plans are still somewhat fluid, our basic theme for the upcoming exhibit will be the history and settlement of the west end of Chebeague. We are planning to accomplish this by focusing on property and other kinds of maps, and on fishing, farming, family trees, place names, men lost at sea, rusticators, and more.

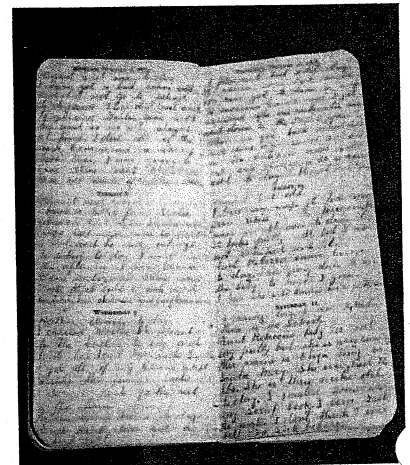
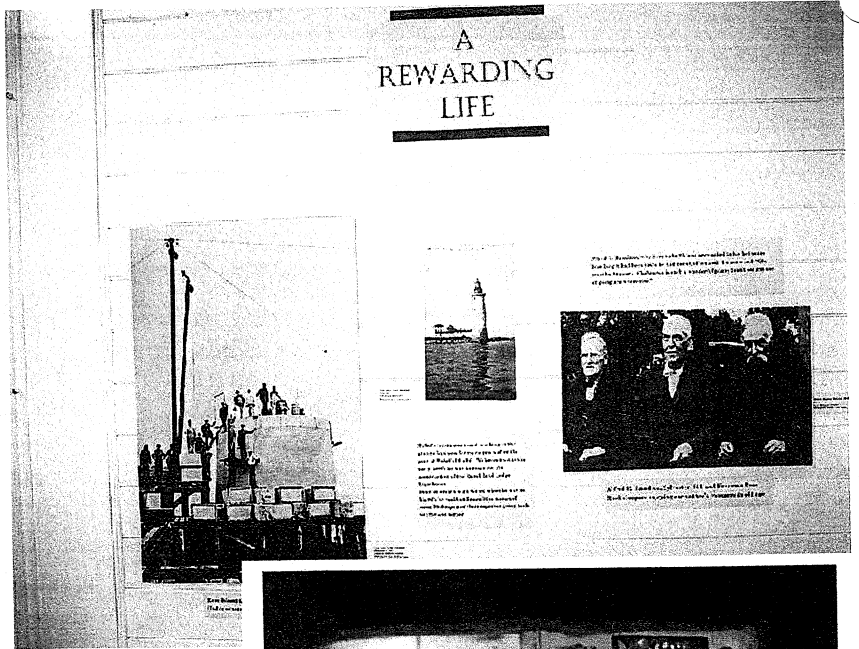
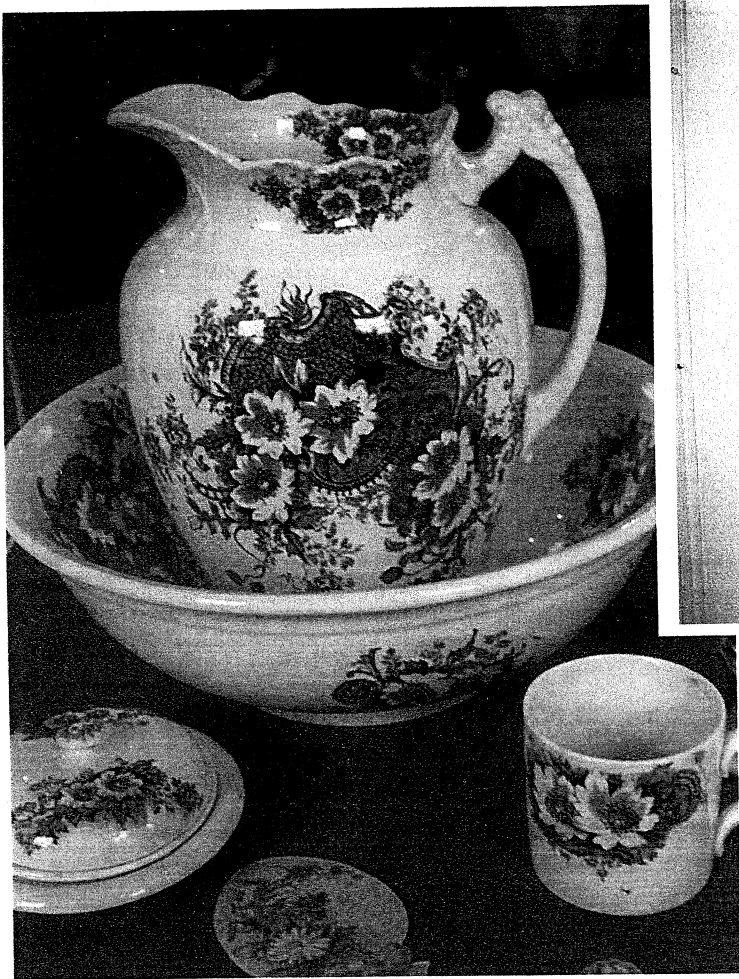
Members of the committee are Donna Damon, Curator; Jane Frizzell, Chair; Beverly Johnson, Jim Millinger, Mac Passano, and Sylvia Ross. We already have offers of assistance and would be very appreciative of the help of other volunteers. Please feel free to contact any of us about useful artifacts, photos or ideas that you may have.

As always be thinking of objects of any kind which the Chebeague Island Historical Society would welcome for its collection. Remember, we have a temperature controlled vault for photos, papers, or anything else effected by the elements. I myself have been guilty of procrastination in contributing items of historical interest to the island community. Please join me in sharing our treasures.



Memories of the first exhibit

photos by Cathy MacNeill



Any Antiques in the Attic?

by Jim Millinger

*We are on a roll !!!
To Loan or to Donate?*

*Haul yours down !!!
Is that the question?*

Oh, you really don't want to let grandma's shawl go just yet? Well, Ted and Judy Morse came to the Museum this Summer with some fine artifacts bought from the Indians who use to summer and sell their wares just east on the South Road near where the tennis courts are now. They weren't yet ready to give them to the museum, but are willing to loan them for an exhibit. You can do this too! We are building up a card file on items of historical value which people will be willing to loan for exhibit purposes. Please tell us of some of your treasures!

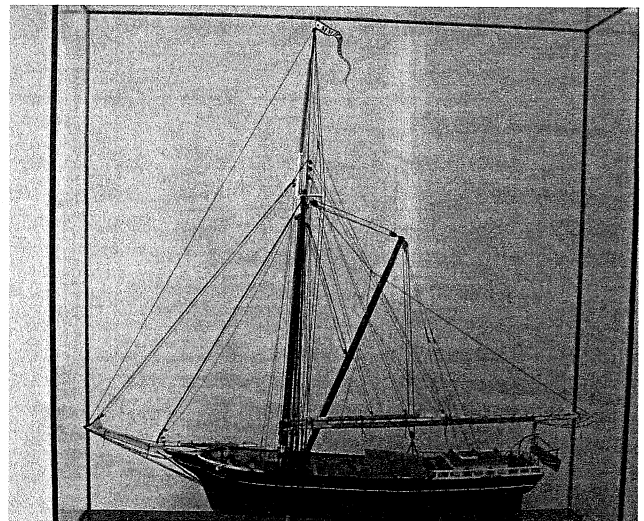
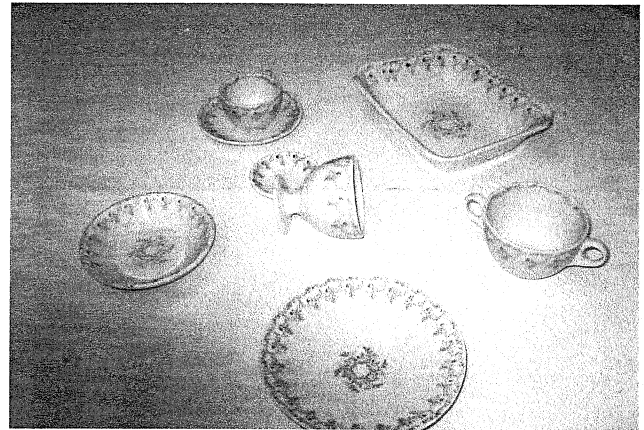
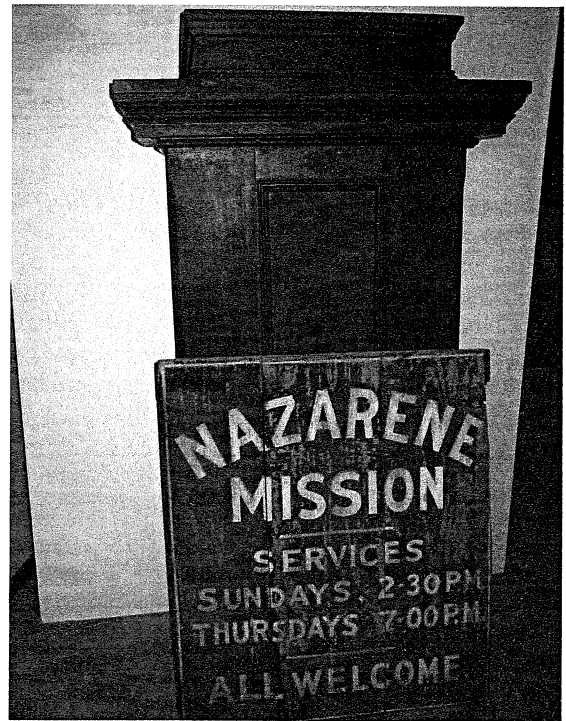
Many thanks to those who loaned the Museum items and objects which helped to illustrate our recent, first exhibit: "In Her Words" Among others, Jane Frizzel a block and textbooks, the Bisharats the sofa, Bob & Gloria Brown the organ, and Eldon Mayer, a fine model of a stone sloop.

Recent donations, you ask?

- Grampa Bowen's pulpit from his Nazarene Chapel—from Richard Bowen, and the sign which was on the front of the Chapel — from Dianne Calder;
- the fish box and some knives and trawl buoys from Sanford Doughty's *Sirius*, as well as his daily logs and celestial navigating calculations when he was a merchant mariner during and just after World War II;
- a certificate to teach issued in 1862 to Susan Bates Littlefield — from Donna Damon;
- cups and saucers from the Hamilton Hotel — from Bob Follette and Mort Harris via Mac Passano and Beth Howe;
- boxes of Hillcrest Hotel business records — from Pommy Hatfield;
- a signboard for Boy Scout Troop 33 — from Joan Robinson; and
- a Chebeague Island High School sweater — from Marianne Brenton.

Look at the gamut! Religion, fishing, seafaring, teaching, the hotel business, boys activities, and schooldays!

Give us a call when you get ready to donate or loan some of your treasures to your Museum's collection.



On loan from Eldon Mayer



Remembering Our Veterans

by Kenneth Hamilton

Emery Roland Ross, deceased

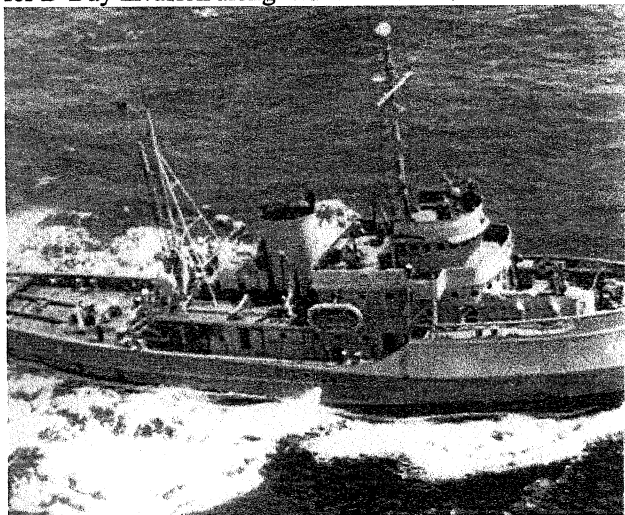
Emery Ross was the brother of Richard Ross, James Ross (Brother), and Alice Ross Bowman. He was married to Elizabeth Stilphen Ross. Emery died of a heart attack while aboard of his fishing boat, the ALICE M in 1962. He was only 42 years old at that time and had been a fisherman all his life.

Emery joined the Navy on August 28, 1942. He spent time at several shipyards along the East Coast. These included Portland, Maine; Boston, Mass.; New York, New York; Philadelphia, Penn.; and yards in Virginia. He was assigned to an Ocean-Going Tug, the ATR 13. These ships were used by the Navy for all sorts of rescue and towing operations.

He eventually left the states for Dover, England where preparations were being made for the invasion of Normandy. Emery participated in this operation because his ship the ATR-13 had the duty of towing Pontoon Bridges to the invasion beach. These tugs were very powerful ships but like most tugboats were not very fast. Long tows could be quite frustrating if you were wishing for a speedy sail.

The ATR-13 went to the Pacific after the invasion of Europe. He was in Tokyo Bay when General MacArthur accepted the surrender of the Japanese Empire.

Emery had the rank of Quartermaster 2nd class when he was discharged on the point system on Jan. 22, 1946. His medals included the World War II Victory Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Area, and the Asiatic Pacific Medal with Battle Star for D-Day invasion along with the Good Conduct Medal.



ATR class Ocean/Rescue Tug



Emery Ross



Gerald and his brother, Clyde who survived a sinking on the way to Russia

Gerald Colbeth

Jerry is one of the few remaining Veterans who attended school on Chebeague and is still alive to tell us a little of his military life during WW II. Jerry lives on Chebeague summers and Danvers, Mass. during the winter. He was only one of his family to see active duty. Both his father, Capt. Clyde Colbeth, and his brother, Clyde, Jr. had their ships sunk in the North Atlantic while convoying aid to Russia.

"I joined the Navy the day after Pearl Harbor was attacked. Because my father determined to be my guardian, I had to have him sign my papers. Unfortunately he was on duty at sea, so I had to wait four months until he got home.

I was sent to the Great Lakes Training Center in Illinois for boot camp and school. I came out of Quartermaster and signal school as a third class petty officer. From there I went to a subchaser training center in Florida and was then assigned to a new subchaser in San Pedro, Calif. The crew was very green. Some were from the Midwest and the largest body of water they had ever seen was a bathtub.

After weeks of shakedown, we were sent to patrol the American northwest coast. It was rough duty for a small ship (110 ft long). From there I spent a year on patrol in the Pacific.

While on maneuvers with our own subs in Hawaii, I was fascinated watching the subs surfacing and diving, so I asked for sub duty which was strictly volunteer. By then I was a first class Petty Officer. I was sent to the sub base in New London Conn. for training and then sent back to Pearl Harbor to join a submarine relief crew, which operated out of Guam. Incidentally, I caught up with Dick McCormack who was on a landing craft as a radioman."

Elliot Hamilton Thompson, deceased

There will be few readers who remember Elliot Thompson because he moved off the island when still a young man. He grew up on Chebeague and attended schools here at a time when only three years of high school was offered. His and his parent's home was the house located adjacent to the KomLosy house on the East End, later purchased by Morgan Ash and now owned by Kitty Freeman. You may remember his name from the newspaper account of several islanders traveling across the ice by automobile in 1934 to drive to Portland for the Sunday papers.

On Nov.1, 1943 when Elliot was 31 years old, married and a father of a two-month old baby boy, he was drafted into the Army. He soon became known as "Pop" by his buddies because he was so much older than most of them. He was sent to the Tank Destroyer School in Camp Hood, Texas and then to an Engineering School in Granite City, IL. His unit was deployed in Nov. of 1944. His training as a Construction Machine Mechanic took him to the Pacific Theater where he was in the Battle of Luzon as part of a Tank Destroyer Battalion.

He received the Good Conduct Medal, Asiatic Pacific Ribbon, American Campaign Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Star and the Victory Medal. He is remembered for liking to sing the old camp ballads of military life.

Elliot's daughter, Vicki, remembers an incident near the end of the war when he was stationed in Japan. "My mother used to tell the story of a foot locker he sent home. She was so excited and pictured lovely kimonos etc. When she opened it, there was Japanese flag, a bayonet, a helmet and some propoganda that he had collected over there. What a disappointment!!"

He was a Tech Sgt. (T/3) when discharged from the 1487 Engineer Maintenance Company at Fort Evens, MA on Feb. 17, 1946.



Elliot Thompson



Time Capsule Sealing

Sylvia Ross and Joan Robinson sealed the time capsule on October 26, 2003 and placed it in the controlled temperature storage room. It will be opened on October 26, 2053 as representation of life as it was known in the year the Museum of Chebeague History had its grand opening.

Included in the time capsule will be:

- Special Edition of the Sloop's Log
- Annual Newsletter
- Newspaper clippings of the grand opening
- Chebeague Island telephone directory
- Monthly Calendar
- Photos of school children, roads, boats and buildings
- 2003 births and deaths
- video of speeches and movies from grand opening
- Wagoneers CD
- Lobster measure
- Newly minted Maine quarter
- 4th of July road race and float winners
- List of Chebeague Island veterans
- Casco Bay Lines time table
- Chebeague Transportation Company time table
- Farewell from the Bowden family
- Copies of the Forecaster, Shopper Notes, Uncle Henry's, Newsweek
- Program from Chebeague United Methodist Church Sunday worship

Volunteers of the Year

The Historical Society is a non-profit and as such has no paid staff. Over the past twenty years the society has grown from a small project based group to an organization with more than \$500,000 worth of assets. More importantly we are the custodians of the island's past. We collect, catalog, and store artifacts and written records. We research and create exhibits. We interpret exhibits and keep the doors open for visitors. We maintain the grounds and building of the Museum. We plan programs and participate in community outreach. We help people find information about their families and their community. We run the gift shop. We keep membership records and we even sweep out the outside bathroom!

Who does all of this? We have a Governing Board of seventeen people, but they cannot possibly do all that needs to be done, so we depend on help from all parts of the community. Our volunteers vary in age and gender. Many of our volunteers work full time, while others volunteer for several island organizations.

In the next Sloops Log we will be announcing our volunteers of the year. These special individuals have gone above and beyond what you might expect a volunteer to do. The volunteers of the year will not be Board members. (We expect them to work hard!) Stay tuned to find out who receives the first annual volunteer award!

Grounds Update

By Richard Bowen

We are pleased to report that significant progress has been made on the landscape plan. This was sketched on paper in the early spring and presented to the board. We got off to a late start due to some difficult weather, in my opinion, the worst spring in many years. The middle of June saw a flurry of activity, with shrubs, trees and sundry bushes planted. July gave us ideal (not for vacationers) conditions for a partial seeding and growing of grass. September was the month for a paved drive-way / parking area. We are now looking forward to having the walk -way done with paving type bricks. This will all but eliminate the tracking-in of dirt. A couple of weeks ago saw a sturdy group of volunteers pushing loam around, picking out the rocks, and raking to level the loam. The final seeding of grass will be in the spring as well as more general beautification. Crushed stone will be placed under all roof drip edges that do not have gutters.

The efforts of many people are making the exterior appearance on a par with the lovely interior. Without this generosity we would not have this wonderful facility. The non board members that need to be thanked are Ann and John Thaxter, Wink Houghton, Wayne Dyer, Tom Calder and Nate Greene. My apologies to anyone who has not been acknowledged.

How I Came to Chebeague

by Mac Passano

My ties to Chebeague go back to my grandfather, the first Leonard Magruder Passano, who was also called "Mac" by his friends. He was a teacher who spent his career teaching algebra and calculus to undergraduates at MIT. He authored mathematics textbooks but also wrote poetry and several novels as well as a "History of Maryland" for the schools of his native state. Family lore has it that when he left Baltimore for Boston to teach at MIT he was offered positions in either English or Mathematics and chose the latter to give him more time to write. As a professor, he had long summer vacations which compensated for the small academic salaries paid in those days. Perhaps that influenced his political preferences ... He was a socialist.

Grandfather had been attracted to Chebeague by his Baltimore friend William H. Howell, a Johns Hopkins professor, who had bought the old Ricker farmhouse at the West End to be a vacation house. Or maybe it was the Morses instead. Anyway, after boarding the family at a farmhouse for a summer he bought a plot of land on Cottage Road in 1910 and built his own cottage near a large ash tree overlooking Chandlers Cove, as shown in the photo. The house was called "Lone Ash" and still stands, although the tree was blown down years ago in a storm. The house looks largely the same on the outside and was much improved throughout by the present owners, the Habigs. Incidentally Khaki Habig is Professor Howell's granddaughter! The Passano family spent over 30 idyllic summers escaping the heat of Boston, gardening and being a part of the summer community. My grandparents thought of it as home.

So from the age of nine my father and his sister Betty were here every summer, swimming and sailing and playing baseball and tennis. Chebeague quickly became an important part of their lives too.

In the summer of 1917 my mother, Grace Dyer came from St. Louis to visit her godmother Mary Pickard in Westbrook who had a summer house on Cottage Road (now owned by the Shattucks). She and my father met and love bloomed; the next year she was back, this time she had her four younger siblings with her and they all stayed in the cottage of Professor Asher Hines of Princeton, now the Webb Cottage. My parents were married in 1922 and I was born in 1924, the oldest of four children. At first I came to visit my grandparents; the photograph shows me on Grandfather's lap at the age of 2 1/2. Then through the 30's my family came often to Chebeague where we crowded into Lone Ash or rented other cottages. We swam and played on the beach or at the "Atlantic and Pacific" tide pool. We picked blueberries (and got into poison ivy) or helped grandfather pick blackberries at the big briar patch on the path that went down to Chandlers Cove. At low tide we dug steamers in the Cove or on the Little Chebeague bar. There were birthday parties and excursion picnics to Basket Island. At least once a year we walked to the Center to have an ice cream cone at Mansfield's Spa. It was heavenly.

One summer we stayed at the old Sweetser Summer Cottage next door to John Small's boatyard, where I remember watching Mr. Small carefully shaping a new lobster boat with long strips of wood. My younger brother John learned to row in the Cricks - my mother tied the punt to a stake on the shore and he rowed around at the end of his tether.

My grandparents both died, and after World War II my parents had to sell Lone Ash. There was a long hiatus when we only returned to bury the ashes of my grandparents and then my father in the family plot at the Cemetery, or to show my own daughter what Chebeague was like. Then in 1986 Beth and I decided to try coming to Chebeague for the summer. We arranged to rent the Webbs' cottage and when Beth and my mother first came out to look at it, Grace realized that it was the same cottage she and her brothers and sisters had stayed in 62 years before. We had a very comfortable and productive time and spent seven additional summers there keeping our Bullseye on a mooring in Chandlers Cove courtesy of Hartley Brewer. Waiting for the fog to lift in August of 1989 so that we could take the sailboat back to the Boatyard, we discovered the 1857 Greek Revival Cape that had gone on the market after Inez Bradford's death; we fell for it and then, like the Blandings in the 1946 novel *Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House*, we enjoyed the ups and downs of the reconstruction necessary to turn the old house into a modern, year-round house. By the time we were finished, what we had originally thought of as a summer home had become our permanent retirement home.



Editor's Note: If you would like to share how you came to Chebeague please send your article to:
The Sloop's Log, PO Box 28, Chebeague Island, ME, 04017

Programs this year will include:

Monday, April 19 - a film to be determined

Saturday, June 19 - **Annual Meeting**
 guest speaker – Bill Green

Monday, July 19 - Donna Damon will give a talk on the new exhibit –
the West End

Monday, October 18 – Show and Tell at the Parish House

2003 – 2004 Officers and Trustees

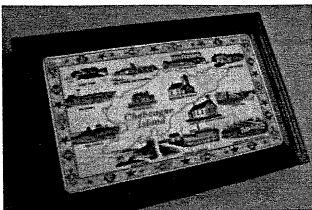
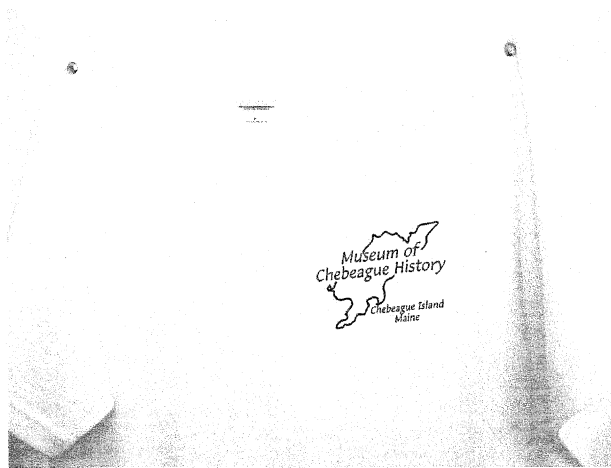
* Richard Bowen * Marianne Brenton * Sue Burgess * Dianne Calder * Mona Calthorpe * Donna Damon *
 * Jane Frizzell * Barbara Hamilton * Kenneth Hamilton * David Hill * Barbara Marshall * Jim Millinger *
 * Marjorie Munroe * Mac Passano * Joan Robinson * Sylvia Ross * Al Traina * Al Whitaker * Jerry Wiles *

Sloop's Log Editor – Jill Malony, Production – Mac Passano

POSTAL PATRON
LOCAL 04017

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
Chebeague Island Historical Society
U.S. Postage Paid Permit #2
Chebeague Island, ME 04017

THE SLOOP'S LOG
Chebeague Island Historical Society
PO Box 28
Chebeague Island, ME 04017



new magnets, new matted prints, T-shirts, notepad box and much more!
From the Museum Shop