

THE SLOOP'S LOG



Newsletter of the Chebeague Island Historical Society
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Fall, 2005

The President's Message

from Richard Bowen and Jane Frizzell

The summer of 2005 saw our first intern working full time at the museum. Sarah Brown came to us after an interview process conducted by Donna Damon and Nancy Earnest. Our good fortune was to find someone with island roots as well as an incredible work ethic. Donna commented when asked how the intern was working out, "I have to tell her to go home at the end of the day." Hiring Sarah would not have been possible without a generous gift of seed money from a Chebeague donor. The fund he set up was created for the express purpose of enabling the museum to have a summer intern. His foresight was fully realized this year. In order for the museum to continue to have this valuable assistance, your financial support for this program would be most appreciated.

The 150th anniversary of the Chebeague United Methodist Church gave the 2005 Exhibit Committee the impetus to feature this church and other churches that have served Chebeaguers over the years. This ever-talented committee had to eliminate a portion of the very popular West End exhibit in order to accommodate the churches. Hopefully, the West Enders will forgive us.

New steel shelving has been installed in the work room/meeting room/research room (a portion of which was the girls' and boys' outhouses when the museum was a school). Shelving and cabinets will also be installed in the office area. For his past and future efforts on these projects we owe many thanks to Ken Hamilton. Two new computers with printers and a scanner and a copier were installed in the office area. We have also purchased a digital camera and a video camera, and we have acquired a new software program called Past Perfect to help us organize our collection. These new acquisitions have been largely funded by grants from the MBNA Foundation, the Rines-Thompson Foundation, the Recompense Foundation, USDA Rural Development, and by local memorial gifts. Our sincere thanks go to Donna Damon for her time and her grant writing prowess.

Perhaps some of you have noticed the rather uncomfortable heat in the museum in the afternoon hours. On sunny days there is a substantial heat gain to the large glass area at the south end of the lobby. We will be installing heat reflective pull-down shades that will deflect approximately 80 plus% of the heat gain. The same shades will probably be used in parts of the exhibit and research rooms as well.

If anyone has questions regarding this issue, please contact Jim Millinger. This summer season the museum grounds have been maintained by Jerry and Beth Wiles. It's obvious that tender loving care has been put to use on our lawn. We have an ongoing project of removing the rocks that came out of the loam used for the lawn. These have been piled up along side the path that leads to the public rest room. The rocks are being moved, one at a time it seems, to the ditch that borders the paved parking area. A work session will be scheduled very soon. Anyone wishing to help should contact Jane or Richard.



We are looking forward in 2005-2006 to working with **Carly Knight**, our new fellow from the Island Institute. Carly is a 2005 graduate of Bowdoin and comes to this new job with enthusiasm. She will be helping us with the cataloging of our collection on Past Perfect, helping us with exhibits, and doing some educational outreach projects. We hope you will all get a chance to meet her and welcome her to the Chebeague community.

This year, and each year since the construction of our wonderful museum, has been busy and productive. We hope to continue to progress and to learn as time goes by and more history is created in our island community. And we hope our terrific volunteers will continue to contribute their much needed help. Volunteerism and donations are the grease that allows the museum to run smoothly and to be able to give the community a sense of its roots. Thanks go to you, all Volunteers and Donors, from the Board of the CIHS, and from your Chebeague community.

Please think of us, we are thinking of you.

The 2006 Exhibit at the Museum of Chebeague History at the #9 Schoolhouse

Jane Frizzell, Chair

The year 2006 brings the 250th anniversary of the arrival of Ambrose and Deborah Soule Hamilton on Chebeague Island in 1756. And that's even before the Battle of Lexington and Concord, and Thomas Jefferson was still somewhat of a pup. We will put the time of their arrival in the context of U. S. history; and we will look at Hamilton family connections and enterprises through all those years.

Any pictures, stories, or artifacts which you feel could be helpful in completing this project would be gratefully received by the Exhibit Committee. Also, if you would like to join our committee, we would be glad for the assistance.

Chebeague High School (part 2)

by Sylvia Ross (class of 1955)

Stanley Libby taught Chebeague High School from 1936 to 1940, and again from 1952 to 1956. He was the only teacher to live on the island year-round. He lived with his wife, Ruth and son, Henry, in the farmhouse (later owned by Dr. Petterson) on Central Landing Road. Eventually, the place was demolished and replaced with a new home by the Gilmartins. They resided later in the house presently owned by Geneva Bowen. Without question, Henry went to school here. The family stayed until Mr. Libby finished teaching in 1940.

When Mr. Libby returned in 1952, he and his family moved into the house which now belongs to Jill Radcliffe. Mr. Libby taught more years than any other High School teacher on the island, giving him the distinction of having taught more Chebeague High School pupils than any other teacher. Many of his past students would vouch that he was the best.

Not only was Mr. Libby well liked and respected by his students, he played the tuba, and was responsible for the formation and continuation of the High School Band throughout the '30s. Upon returning in the '50s, he carried with him new and innovative ideas..... one of which had never been attempted by Chebeague High ...a Class Year Book. The students loved the idea and titled the book The No'theaster.

Accomplished mostly by the students themselves, Stanley Libby believed that you learned not only by studying but by doing. They traveled to the mainland scouting for advertisers for their Year Book as well as covering all businesses on the island. They enclosed their essays, listed all alumni, included class pictures, autographs,

the graduation program and a variety of other features and humorous stories. Today these Yearbooks, '52, '53, '54 and '55 are, indeed, historic treasures.

An exciting moment of time has been preserved by a page in the '55 edition of the No'theaster, namely, a 1905 program of the first graduation ceremonies of the Chebeague High School 100 years ago this year! (See copy elsewhere in this Sloop's Log) They held their graduation ceremonies in the United Methodist Church. 50 years later the Class of '55, also, held their graduation ceremonies in the Chebeague Methodist Church. And this was 50 years ago! To Hartley Brewer, Alice Doughty (Lefebvre), Roberta Kendall (Dyer), Mary Ellen Johnson (Webber), Marjorie Small (Munroe), and Priscilla Stilphen (Ross). CONGRATULATIONS!

During the interval between Stanley Libby and Anna Allen, 1940-1943, the High School teachers were Harold Salisbury and Vernon Bolster. Mr. Bolster had lost part of his left arm but he never was known to bring up the subject, and neither did his pupils. He was eighty years old when he attended the last school reunion in 2003 and enjoyed sharing memories with his past students. Both Mr. Bolster and Mr. Salisbury boarded with Waldo and Mildred Crafts. New teachers, Thomas and Grace Beetle, also lived there previously in 1950. She taught Junior High. He taught High School. A few years after they had moved away, the island people were shocked on learning that Mr. Beetle had been killed in an accident.

Bits and Pieces about Junior High

(1936-1955)

Junior High teachers came and went, usually teaching for two years or so. Most had majored in special fields so the pupils enjoyed switching classrooms from Junior High to High and visa-versa, according to the curriculum of the day. In 1936-39 Bea Grover came to teach. She was also a music teacher. She formed a Glee Club amongst the girls at school. She married Richard Bowen. (they were Dick Bowen's parents). Eleanor Clark (1939-1941) married another island boy, Walter Curit, who lived with his family in what is now, the Groothoffs. Walter's parents were Walter, Sr. and Lizzie Curit. They were caretakers of the Ballard estate for many years. Lenore Murdock (1941-1943) boarded with the KomLosy family on the North Road. Susie Hodsdon (1943-1945) started the Hot Lunch Program, She rented the Prescott home, then known as Nellie Cleaves house. Ellen Dickson (1945-1946), had majored in English. She broke her hip in mid-term. She was replaced by Joyce Croteau, (1946-1948) a French teacher from

Biddeford (yes, she taught English also). She boarded with the Crafts. Frances Turner (1948-49). Her specialty was English. She rented Lillian Doughty's house, presently Mark McGees'. She was elderly, and owned a bulldog named Tobey, which she loved. She was strict, but a fabulous teacher. It was (1949-1952) when Grace and Tom Beetle taught.. Mrs. Hall (1952-1954) and her son, Russell, boarded at Ralph and Lida Small's (Marjorie's parents). Mrs. Mara, the last Chebeague Junior High teacher commuted every day by Casco Bay Lines. They both were fine teachers. Clarence Kilton, taught for one year at the High School before Anna Allen. He had a hearing problem which sometimes tempted his students to take advantage of him.

Memories of the Prize Speaking Contests

For several years, during the '40's in April, Anna Allen (1943-1949), announced that we would be holding a Prize Speaking Contest at the Island Hall. It would be judged with prizes of money awarded to the First, Second and Third top contestants. plus Honorable Mention certificates. The pupils had the option of choosing their own piece, whether it be poetry or State addresses. They were judged for poise, pronunciation and expression. First prize was \$10, Second prize was \$5 and Third prize was \$1....good money in those days.

The three judges were; Professor /Author, Eric P. Kelly from Dorchester, Massachusetts, who taught at Dartmouth College and owned a home at Roses' Point.. He also wrote "The Trumpeter of KraKow". Professor Austin (Morris) Harmon from Connecticut, who summered at the East End. He taught at Princeton and Yale Universities. He was Michael Porter's grandfather and he used to live where Nora (Toohey) and Donald Alper live today. Costantino (Connie) Ciampa, David Hill's grandfather was a lawyer in the Boston area and was on the defense team in the Sacco-Vanzetti trial. All three of these distinguished gentlemen presented the awards to each winner with a shake of the hand and a little speech of their own. Possibly today the prizes then given would be the equivalent of \$50, \$25 and \$10.

Following are some of the recitations selected by the pupils. "Barbara Frietchie", "Paul Revere's Ride", "The Wreck of the Hesperus", "Some Said that it Couldn't Be Done", "Who Hath A Book?", "Kentucky Belle", "The Cremation of Sam McGee", "Casey at the Bat", Patrick Henry's "Give me Liberty, or Give me Death" speech, and Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address".

Acknowledgements

I appreciate all of the helpful information which I received from the following people: Martha Hamilton, Lib Ross, Nancy and David Hill, Michael Porter, Donna Damon, Victoria Bowen, Audrey Collins and Ken Hamilton. My special thanks to Priscilla Ross for offering me her No'theaster Yearbooks, which has provided me with a wealth of important information and photos. Thanks Pip!

ALUMNI - Gone but not Forgotten

(excerpt from 1955 year book)

Fifty years ago on June 28, 1905 the first class graduated from Chebeague High School. They were seven in number:

John F. Hill	Belgrade, Maine
Louise Hamilton West	North Quincy, Massachusetts
Georgia T. Hamilton	Deceased
Lenore Bennett de Gagne	Portland, Maine
Carlton Littlefield	Deceased
Ruth Hamilton Smith	Waterboro, Maine
Dolly Littlefield	Deceased

Much interest was shown by the Island people and the church was well filled. Music was provided by a Portland orchestra. An honor guest on the platform was Oscar Sturdivant, a former Superintendent of Schools. He had done much to get Chebeague High School established. The class colors were green and white. The class motto was "Esse non Videri". One member of the class recalls that there were no automobiles on the Island at the time, and that some of the graduates rode to and from the church in a "surrey with the fringe on top".



This pastel, by Jeanne Mullen was presented by the artist to the Museum and is part of the permanent collection.



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CHRISTMAS GIFTS

from the

MUSEUM OF CHEBEAGUE HISTORY

Please think of CIHS when making your Christmas list.
Here are some items which might be of interest to you:

CIHS tote bags-water resistant with zippered top-dark blue with logo.

\$22 plus tax

CIHS baseball caps-tan with dark blue bill.

\$12 plus tax

Magnets of Chebeague scenes-your personal pictures if desired. \$3 plus tax

Calendars of Chebeague scenes painted by Louise Todd. \$20 plus tax

Call:

Joan Robinson at 846-4075

or

the museum at 846-5237

