

THE SLOOP'S LOG

Newsletter of the Chebeague Historical Society

Special Edition July 2000

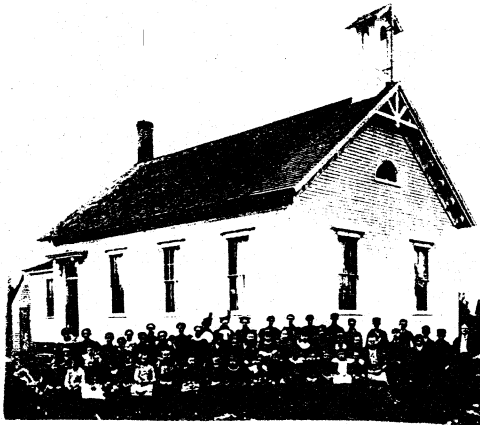
Founding of the Society

The Chebeague Island Historical Society was founded on April 6, 1984 at the Chebeague Island Hall with following members present. Blanchard and Peggy Bates, Shirley Burgess, Jane Abrahamson, Margaret Trower, Martha Hamilton, Marjorie Munroe, Eleanor Johnson, Joan Robinson, and Donna Damon. Over the next few months more people joined the group to help organize the Society. All of the people who joined before the organization became incorporated in June of 1984 are known as the founders. In addition to those all ready mentioned they include:

Mabel Doughty
Elizabeth Sinkinson
Beverly Johnson
Peggy Dyer
Ken Hamilton
Alice Blackwell
Cynthia Sheketoff
Bill and Carolyn Swann
Audrey Collins
Alexander Morton
Ginger Hobart

Sharon Bowman
Gordon Trower
Alice Bowman
Kevin Calder
Jane Frizzell
Sheila Putnam
Madeline Brewer
Marjorie Rice
Bob Follette
Ted Ballard
Bob Lewis

By the end of that first years there were more than 100 charter members. As promised, their names as well as the founders will hang in the new museum.



The Society's Mission

The Mission of the Chebeague Island Historical Society is to enrich the lives of Chebeague residents and visitors by the acquisition and preservation of antiquities and documents by researching and recording the story of the island's past and present.

The primary functions of the Society include:

- Discover, collect, and preserve the Island's material culture to document and illustrate the History of Chebeague Island
- Make Chebeague's material culture accessible to all who wish to examine and study it
- Research and record the histories of individuals and families identified with Chebeague Island.
- Initiate a collection of oral and visual history
- Develop programs and exhibits
- Cooperate with other historical organizations to further our goals
- Cultivate an awareness that today's current affairs will be tomorrow's history and promote accuracy and preservation of current records

The Vision for the District 9 Schoolhouse Project

(Indicates the step has been completed)*

1. *Make the building tight to the weather
2. *Hire an architect to develop drawings that will maximize space and minimize costs
3. *Drill well, install septic system to provide running water for sinks and toilets
4. Construct public bathroom [In progress]
5. Renovate the annex to store and display artifacts and archival materials
6. Renovate the original school to be used for exhibitions, educational programs, and conferences

Now and Then -The East End The Samuel Hutchinson Parcel

The Robert Hamilton Sr. neighborhood at the turn of the century.



The South Road, laid out in 1850, runs from the East End to Bennetts Cove. Through the years it became the island's "main street" with more schools and businesses than any other road on Chebeague. The location of the road attracted residential development as well as businesses. This edition of *Then and Now* will look at the portion of the East End that was originally the Samuel Hutchinson Farm. The Hutchinson property was approximately 47.5 acres and extended from shore to shore. It ran from the stone wall between the Bertha Gray and George Wilson [Waldo's] houses to a stone wall that can still be found on the line running from the South Road to the shore between the Souchek and Stranahan houses. Hutchinson bought the property from the heirs of John Waite in 1826. He built the cape section of the house that is now owned by Nora and Don Alper. Based on Town valuation records it is thought that Hutchinson's cousin, Robert Hamilton Sr. may have built a similar cape on the opposite end of the parcel before 1848 when Hutchinson actually deeded him twenty acres more or less of the original lot. Thus when the South Road was laid out there were only two houses on 47.5 acres!

Through the years these parcels were subdivided and subdivided! The Hamilton lot became a family enclave, while the Hutchinson parcel, owned by Rufus Soule after 1848, was subdivided by his son Rufus, during the later part of the Nineteenth Century. The majority of the lots along the South Road were sold to the descendants of Robert Hamilton! Ray Hamilton's father, Alf once said that he had 32 first cousins living in this neighborhood when he was growing up.

Many of these substantial houses were used as boarding houses during the summer, and nearly every year-round house in this part of the East End rented rooms to boarders who ate at one of the larger establishments. The land along both shores was divided into cottage lots and sold to summer people.

While one could write a book about the houses and the people who lived on the East End, the following is just a taste of what folks will learn about on a walking tour of the neighborhood being planned for August. See the August *Calendar* for more information on this new venture.



The Robert Hamilton House in the 1890's



In the early 1900's the roof of the Robert Hamilton house raised and the house became the rambling Orchard Cottage [now Carlos and Renee Nottebohm]



The Royal and Isabel Hamilton Bennett House was a boarding house in 1895. [Now Williams]



Field-day at the Hamilton,
Chebeague, Me.



*This is the largest house
here and is right in the
center.*

The Woodside House, [above] originally the home of Harry Hamilton, was located on the site of the present Ensign House next to Hamilton Villa. After the house burned in the early 1900's, Harry Hamilton bought land on the south shore from Rufus Hamilton and built the Hamilton Hotel



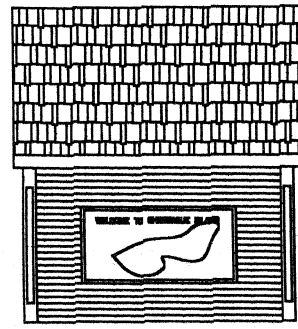
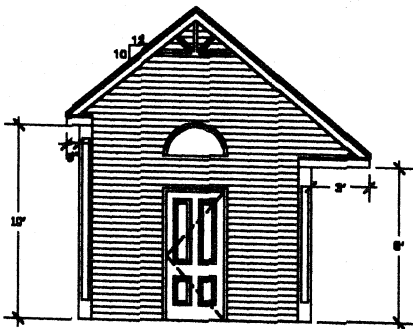
Howard Hamilton built his house in 1890 on the land of his grandfather, Robert Hamilton Sr. [Now Morse]

The Herman and Almeda Hamilton Doughty House in the 1890's. [Now Prescott]

Lewis Miller Papers

The Chebeague Island Historical Society acquired many items from the estate of the late Albion Miller through the generosity of his niece, the late Lillian Hutchinson Keenan. Much of the collection consists of fishing artifacts. On the night before the Lewis Miller house on Coleman's Cove was to be sold out of the family Keenan called Donna Miller Damon and donated several more items to the Society.

Damon and Keenan's cousin, Lewis Sawyer went to retrieve the items. As they were leaving Lewis Sawyer decided to look in his grandfather's attic one last time. The attic was empty except for a large cardboard box. Sawyer brought the box down from the attic. The box was full of family pictures, papers, and other important momentos. Lillian Keenan donated the contents of the box to the Chebeague Island Historical Society. The papers documented the story of an island family for the first two decades of the Twentieth Century. The opposite page is a collage made from copies of the original papers of Lewis Miller. We can learn a great deal about Miller's life, and the lives of his contemporaries from these bits of paper which just scratch the surface of the entire collection.

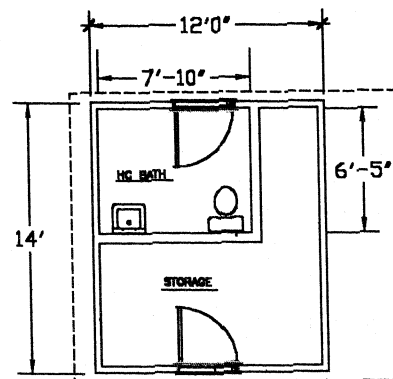


Historical Society to Provide Public Bathroom for the Community

Thanks in part to a grant from the USDA Rural Development the Chebeague Island Historical Society is in the process of constructing a public bathroom on the south side of the District 9 Schoolhouse. Designed by the building committee with the help of Doug Damon the building is currently being built by Mark Dyer. Bev Johnson and Jon Rich will do the plumbing and Wayne Dyer is doing the site work.

The building pictured above will fill a long-standing island need. The season bathroom will be open during day light hours from April to October. The building will also house a small storage room. The side of the building facing the Green A will have a large map of Chebeague, a bulletin board and a place for brochures. The overhang will provide shelter in case of rain. The building is reminiscent of the privy that sat behind the school in the 1800's.

The facility will belong to all of us. We ask that the entire community help us to keep it neat and tidy.

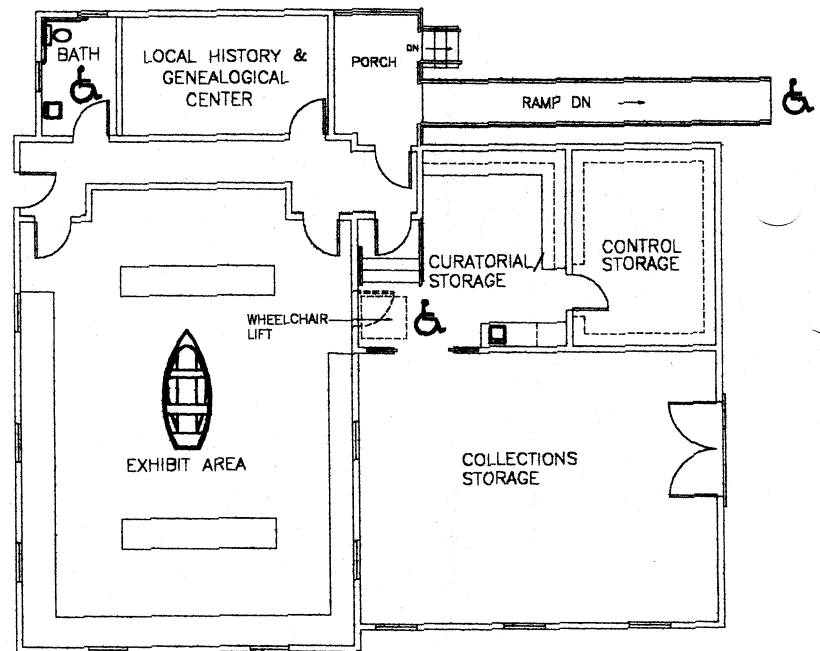


Chebeague Island

Chebeague means many things to many people. The history of Chebeague is the story of its people and the evolution of a community through the centuries. It is the sense of the Chebeague community that the Society hopes to capture and preserve in the Museum of Chebeague History. Historians often talk about the impact of economic, social, religious and political institutions on a community, but the institutions do not exist in a vacuum. The institutions are made of people and the interaction of the people in a community, while they work and play, determines the heart of the community. It does not matter if we are newcomers, summer natives, or the descendants of the island's earliest settlers, we all feel that Chebeague is more than a place to live. There is an invisible tie to this rock that keeps us here or brings us back home.

While the connection to Chebeague is different for all people, it is the same. For a moment in time cultural differences cease to exist. We share a natural curiosity about this place we call home. We walk down the road and look at a house and wonder who lived there. We wonder about their lives on Chebeague. Did they have children? What kinds of clothes did they wear? What did they do for a living? How did the Civil War affect their lives? We walk along and wonder how a cow pasture became a golf course. We wonder what it was like for a child to leave a large eastern city and spend the summer at a rambling summer hotel. We wonder what it would be like to have eight grades in one schoolroom. We wonder what happened to the Cod and the Haddock that once came inshore to spawn. So many questions, so many more to ask.

How will future generations view us? Will they understand what it was like to live on Chebeague at the end of the Twentieth Century? The Chebeague Island Historical Society is committed to preserving the story of today as well as interpreting the material culture of the past. As we go about our daily routines we are all an essential part of Island history in the making. We want to understand the past and to tell our story as well. Creating the Museum of Chebeague History is just the beginning.



Concept plan for the interior space of the Museum of Chebeague History at the District 9 Schoolhouse

Chebeague Island Historical Society to Launch Fundraising Campaign

As we begin the summer of 2000 the Chebeague Island Historical Society has embarked on its most ambitious endeavor to date. On June 28, 2000 we officially kicked off the campaign to raise \$300,000 to renovate the District 9 Schoolhouse and create the Museum of Chebeague History. To date we have raised over \$110,000 in cash and pledges and have received an exciting challenge. A donor has pledged to donate \$40,000 when the campaign reaches the \$260,000 mark! That means we need to raise only an additional \$150,000 in cash, pledges and grants to reach our goal of \$300,000 and to make the Museum of Chebeague History a reality.

During the summer you will be contacted and asked to donate to the project. Donations may be made when you are contacted or you may make a pledge, which can be fulfilled over the next few years. CIHS is a 501(c) 3 organization and all gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law. We welcome all gifts. No gift is too small and we hope that all Chebeaguers both year-round and summer will support this project to the extent they are able. This is your project and the support of the entire community is essential! Thank you in advance for your support.

Historical Society Clambake

August 5

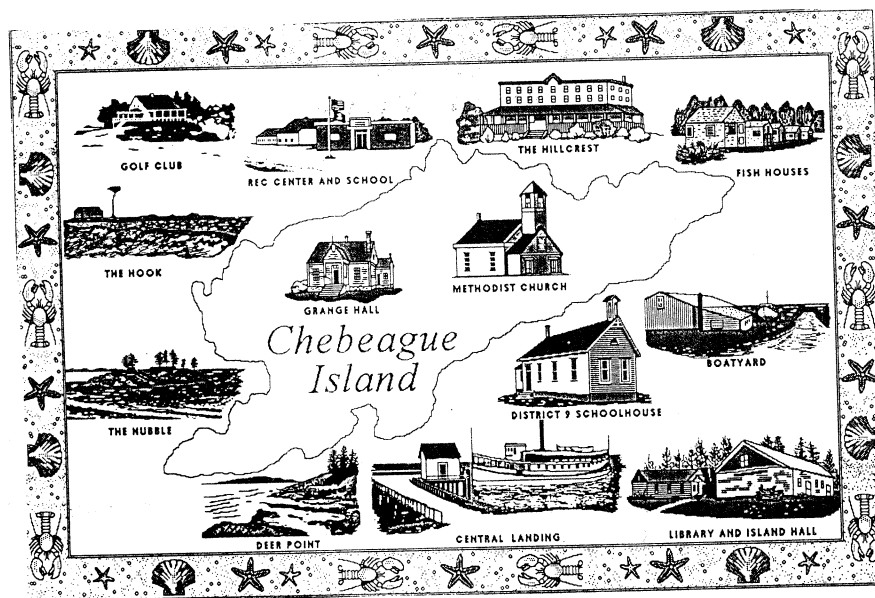
The Historical Society is hosting a fundraising clambake on Saturday, August 5 at 5:00 P.M. on the shore in front of Paul and Lucille Ferragamo's house to benefit the campaign to restore the District 9 Schoolhouse and create the Museum of Chebeague History.

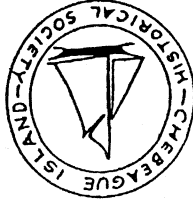
For generations Chebeaguers have headed to the shore when they wanted to eat a good mess of clams and lobsters. This island tradition will bring back fond memories to many and be a new experience for others. If you need crackers and picks it's bring your own, or join the rest of us using the tired and true break 'em with a rock method! Bring a picnic blanket or a folding chair and join your friends and neighbors on the shore for an evening of summer fun and have a good old-fashioned time! The tide will be ebbing, but swimming will be an option for all the hearty souls. Children are welcome, but we think you'll all agree that a clambake is no place for a dog! Comfortable dress is suggested. Don't forget to slather on the bug dope. Mosquitoes have been known to frequent this beach from time to time! Bring guitars, harmonicas, or a set of bongos for some spontaneous entertainment. The Ferragamos live at the end of Brookwood Lane, which is down over the hill from Lewis and Gerry Ross. **Please don't drive down the road.** You may walk or take a shuttle from the South Road or the Historical Society Parking Lot. You can also reach the clambake by small boat or walk down Fenderson Road and hike along the shore.

Because of the number of people we expect will attend the event we will not be digging a pit, but are fortunate to have BJ working his magic on the mollusks and crustaceans. Barbecued chicken is an option for those who aren't partial to seafood and of course the clambake will include corn, onions, hot dogs, boiled eggs etc. We'll provide dessert and various kinds of soda. Mark your calendar today. Tickets will be limited and are sure to sell out fast! Tickets will go on sale at the Historical Society meeting on July 17, and they will be on sale at various places around the island. Watch for posters for more specific information.

Chebeague Coverlet for Sale

Joan Robinson, merchandising chair of the Chebeague Island Historical Society is pleased to announce that the Society will be selling a cotton woven coverlet that depicts fourteen island scenes including a map of the island. The coverlet pictured below, measures four by six and comes in either cranberry or cream or blue and cream. The shipment will arrive in late July. To date only fifty throws of each color have been ordered. The cost is \$50 each for this unique gift. They are expected to arrive in late July. Don't be disappointed. Call Joan today at 207-846-4075 to reserve yours. The proceeds from this exciting fundraiser will benefit the campaign to create the museum of Chebeague History at the District 9 Schoolhouse.





Please support the work of the Chebeague Historical Society and to make the Museum of Chebeague History a reality!



The Hamilton Villa built in 1871

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