

QUARTERBOARD

CUTTYHUNK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Serving the Elizabeth Islands Since 1978 ■ Summer Telephone 508.984.4611

23 Tower Hill Road ■ Cuttyhunk, Massachusetts 02713

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AS I WRITE these notes the wind is howling, the sun is shining brightly, and winter is once more upon us. Such dramatic weather evokes memories of Cuttyhunk, Buzzards Bay, waves breaking over Barges Beach, and the smell of the salty air. And even though it is still winter, thoughts of spring and the start of a new season for the Society and Museum are much in my mind.

First, I would like to thank you for your confidence in electing me President of our Society this year. In particular, I want to thank Bob Field, past president, for the many contributions he made as a member, docent, board member, initiator of the investment committee, and finally, as president.

Second, a BIG THANK YOU to all our volunteers. There are not enough adjectives to describe the importance of volunteers to the Society's dual roles as educators and custodians of the history of the Elizabeth Islands. I urge members who have not done so in the past to work on special events, children's activities, organizing the museum collection, or to join the popular docent group. You will learn

more about the history of our precious islands, meet interesting people, and have fun.

Our 2005 exhibit, *The Nature that Connects Us*, attracted so much interest that we have decided to continue it next summer. Allie Thurston, Sandy Earle, and Shelly Merriam did a yeoman's job of creating a memorable display. If you were unable to visit the Museum this past summer, please do so in 2006!

It is a pleasure to welcome two new members, Kresenia Lombard and Ned Prevost, to our board. Thanks go to Tamsin Zimbone who completed her term as a director. We are indebted to Ann Conway for her wisdom and hard work as Treasurer for the past five years. Ann is now Vice President, and Kris Lombard is our new Treasurer.

In closing, please take advantage of our Society and Museum by visiting often, volunteering, and continuing your membership. Your support is vital to the ongoing success of our unique organization. As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions.

GAIL BLOUT

NOTES FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

THE MUSEUM GUEST BOOK RECORDED 4,080 visitors in the 2005 season. This number, slightly more than in the prior two years, included newcomers and returning friends. The featured exhibit, *The Nature that Connects Us: The Natural History of the Elizabeth Islands*, proved to be very popular. It was created by guest curator Allison Thurston to illustrate, in the context of the islands' history, the continual changes in the natural world.

This comprehensive presentation was designed to involve a variety of viewers on different levels. Some enjoyed a quick look at the highlights; others had specific and deeper interests and brought new information. Those with scientific knowledge were especially complimentary; and the children eagerly asked questions, took notes and petted the coyote. Many visitors said, "There's so much here: I'll have to come back," — and they did!

Popular adjuncts to the exhibit were Cindy Garfield's delightful new match game for children and the nature activity backpacks made by Nancy Twichell for families exploring the island. Others lent ideas, efforts and expertise, as well as objects, to this project, and we are grateful to them all.

Continued on page 4

WINTER 2006

HISTORY IN THE MAKING



Addisyn Petrulli, fifth-generation Cuttyhunker, (with the aid of her mother Emily Voigt Petrulli) dips into the '04 World Series trophy, won by the Boston Red Sox. Cuttyhunk was the last stop on the trophy's statewide tour, and many were on hand to view the trophy and touch the champions' rings which arrived by helicopter on June 24, 2005.

NEW LOOK

We've added color and updated the Quarterboard with the help of Flocksholm Design in Putney, Vermont

CUTTYHUNK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Serving the Elizabeth Islands
Box 181
Cuttyhunk Island,
MA 02713
Summer Telephone:
508.984.4611

The purpose of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society is to preserve the traditions, records, and history of the Elizabeth Islands for the benefit of present and future generations. The Society, launched in 1978, was incorporated in 1982.

Museum Director
Alexandra Earle

Directors 2005–2006
Gail Blout, President
Ann Conway, Vice President
Kris Lombard, Treasurer
John Moore, Clerk

Paula DiMare
Paul Elias
Christopher Hart
Roxy Leeson
Lexi Lynch
John Medeiros
Shelly Merriam
Ned Prevost
Robert Smith
Mary Todd
David Warr

Quarterboard is the newsletter of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society and is published twice a year.

Louise Garfield Bachler, *Editor*

IN MEMORIAM

We are saddened to report the recent passing of island friends:

Ronald Feinberg
Michael Porter
John Ward
Robert Wilder
Shirley Wilder
Cornelius A. Wood, Jr.
William Wood

JOHN WARD

CUTTYHUNK RESIDENTS remember John Ward as the long-time minister of the Cuttyhunk Union Methodist Church. Each summer for 33 years (1967–1999) he attended early morning Episcopal services (when either Boone Porter or Ned Prevost was on island) and at 9:00 would be present (joining “Father Phil”) for Catholic Mass before conducting his own Sunday evening hymn sing and service.

But we also recall that he was on hand in the late 1970s when the Church Trustees received a \$1,000 gift from a DuPont family member. The trustees voted to start an institution to preserve island history for future generations. Thus, in 1978, the Cuttyhunk Historical Center was born. Once the CHS had its own building, John served as a docent. His was a cheerful, supportive presence which often drew islanders to the Akin Room to catch up on island news.

The community has missed John’s and his wife Carmen’s visits over the past few years and is saddened by news of his death in November. John’s greetings from his scooter as he headed to the Alert dock or the beach, his talents in summer Musicales, and his words inside the Church will long stay in our memories. 🚤

CHS LEPROSY EXHIBIT ON TOUR



Thomas Buckley, (above) author of *Penikese, Island of Hope*, with the CHS exhibit on the Penikese Leprosarium (1905–1921). The exhibit — including medicine bottles, patient records, and photos — is a companion to a larger exhibit at the Public Health Museum in Tewksbury, MA. Organized by Paul Mange Johansen, “Hansen’s Disease: A Feared Infection,” is on view until April 1, 2006. Buckley will be a panelist at a symposium on leprosy on Friday, March 24, 2006. Contact Valerie, 978.658.4589 to see the exhibit, or Shelly Merriam for more information, 508.278.2133 or sjmerr@rcn.com. 🚤

2005 RAFFLE WINNERS

WINNERS of the CHS Raffle were announced at the Cuttyhunk Yacht Club party marking summer’s end. Cuttyhunker **Julia Twichell** won the earrings and necklace donated by Samantha Brown Goodrich of Groton, MA. **Bud Tietje**, former captain of Patriot Party Boats and visitor to Cuttyhunk since the 1950s, won the Lighthouse cross-stitched by Carol Mellen of Henniker, NH. And the weekend lodging at ‘Hunker Down,’ the Merriams’ Cuttyhunk home, went to longtime boater **George Parks** of Portland, CT.

SEEKING THE WANDERER

THE NEW BEDFORD WHALING MUSEUM is restoring and documenting the figurehead of the bark *Wanderer*. The last whaling ship to sail from New Bedford, she was wrecked off Cuttyhunk in 1924.

Sarah Parks, Curatorial Intern, is seeking *Wanderer*-related materials and information. She is interested in speaking with people with knowledge and family tales about the ship and its wreck, and will visit the island in the spring to explain the project. If you have stories to share, please contact Sarah at the Whaling Museum, 508.997.0046, sarah.parks@gmail.com; or Sandy Earle, CHS Museum Director, MarsAlex@aol.com. 🚤

ACQUISITIONS

We thank the following people for gifts to the Cuttyhunk Historical Society collection in 2005.

Blout, Gail: Color postcard, Cuttyhunk Light & Gosnold Monument, 1910

Doran, Virginia: Photographs: Fish Dock, 2005

Elmore, Bee: Swordfishing Tournament photograph, 1962, with clipping; 2 envelopes, 1914, 1930; postcard, Avalon, 1956; Coot Hall business card; First Day Cover, USCG Cutter *Cuttyhunk*, 1988, with letter

Frothingham and Feinberg families: Collection of artifacts found on Joe Slate's Island by archaeologist Jeffrey Brain, 2004, with Excavation Notes and Artifact Catalog

Hinrichs, Mary: Booklet, Bicentennial Ship Parade, 1976

Hodgson, Sloat F.: 3 photo albums and collection of photos of Janet Bosworth & friends

Lombard, Kris: 2004 Photographs: Cuttyhunk Christmas, Winter Library; Fish Dock, July 4th; Canapitsit, 2000; & assorted documents

Merriam, Shelly: 2 Cuttyhunk Church centennial key rings, 1981

Nowell, Theresa C.: Oil painting: Fishing Club Pond by, J.S. Manley

Petrulli, Emily: Negatives of Oriel Ponzeccchi's birthday party, 2004

Stevens, Betsy: Allen House apron

Sylvia, James M.: Oil painting: View from Tower Hill, by J.S. Manley

Tietje, Emil D.: "Cuttyhunk Lost Sole," catboat model made from flip-flop sole; found 1972, rigged 1997

Todd, Mary: Photographs: Geology Walk with S. Wall and Island Memories, 2005

Wood, Henry: Plan of Cuttyhunk Harbor and Pond, 1900



We thank the following people who contributed clippings, articles, and photocopies to the Museum during the past year:

Weezie Garfield Bachler, Grace Wilder Butler, Ann Conway, Sandy Earle, Bee Elmore, Kitsy Garfield, Mary Hinrichs, Peter Lehner, Sara Lehner, Holly Leon, Richard Loring, Shelly Merriam, Beverly Prevost, Daphne Storey, Kate Tabor, Allison Thurston, Mary Todd, Ethel Twichell, Don Verlenden, Suzanne Wall.

We also wish to thank Roxy Leeson and Nancy Twichell for their donations of books to the Children's Table.

VOLUNTEER NEWS



Ann Conway, former Treasurer and new Vice President of CHS, presents the Volunteer of the Year Award to Dix Leeson at the Annual Meeting in August 2005.

DOCENT HONORS

The Society honors the following loyal docents:

Five Years of Service
David Frothingham
Bets Sanford

Ten Years of Service
Barbara Dorr
Shelly Merriam
Gerrit Sanford

IN MEMORIAM GIFTS 2005

Alden Anderson

George M. Anderson
Jean & Sandy Brown
Dr. Francis W. Glock, Jr.
Mrs. Charles H. Granger
Helen & Al Wilson

Olga Ashley

Mr. & Mrs. Seth Garfield
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Spanos

Kaye Bullard

Mr. & Mrs. Seth Garfield

Christine Dodge

Marilyn & Barbara Brendan
Mr. & Mrs. James Conway
Philip W. Drake
Alex Garfield
Amanda Garfield
Brenden Garfield
Elizabeth Garfield

Mr. & Mrs. Horace
Garfield

Jay Garfield
Mr. & Mrs. John N.
Garfield, Jr.

Rebecca Garfield
Mr. & Mrs. Seth Garfield

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas
Garfield

Tina Garfield & Marshall
Sawyer

Mr. & Mrs. Wyatt Garfield
Mrs. Charles H. Granger

Mr. & Mrs. David
Twichell

Ronald Feinberg

Diana Feinberg
Mr. & Mrs. Wyatt Garfield

Doris Hatfield DBE

David Warr

David Jenkins

Mr. & Mrs. James Conway

A. Dix Leeson, Sr.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Field
Mrs. Charles H. Granger

Stevie Lyttle

Richard J. Lyttle

William & Agnes Ryder

Aurora Cammarata
Arlene Doe
Laura Doe

Marjorie M. Smith

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Conley
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Field
Mr. & Mrs. Wyatt Garfield
Robert B. Smith, Jr.
Janet Stuart

Florence Thomson

Mr. & Mrs. Wyatt Garfield
Mrs. Charles H. Granger

Elizabeth Walker

Mrs. John K. Tabor

John & Shirley Wilder

Grace Butler
Beth & Earl Hurst
Janet Wilder
John & Shirley Wilder
Revocable Trust

Robert Wilder

Mary A. Franklin
Mr. & Mrs. Wyatt Garfield

Cornelius A. Wood, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. James
Conway
Mr. & Mrs. Wyatt Garfield

Welcome to new members who joined CHS in 2005

The Broderick Family
Hilary and Miller Brown
Joanne Canary
Jerry & Susan Gabert
Dianna Garfield
Scott Garren
David Low
Margaret K. McCarthy
Robert Pacheco
Seth Pearson
Elise Fulstone & Bill Tabor
Lawrence W. & Barbara F. Vincent
Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Wilder
Linda & David Wilson & Family

MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S NOTES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The *Quabog Shell Mosaics of Manny Sarmento* filled the Akin Room. The Society's mosaics, grouped with others on loan from the Church and from individuals, made a dramatic presentation of Sarmento's vision and precise craftsmanship. We were especially pleased that Manny and Mary Sarmento's nephew visited this exhibit.

We started the summer with a festive Opening Party, and later held the fundraiser, Barbecue Bash, at Avalon. There were gatherings for CHS volunteers as well, two evenings at the Museum and two luncheons at the DiMares', overlooking the island and Buzzards Bay. A small group visited the Tarpaulin Cove Lighthouse in August.

Special events included the popular Island Memories evenings, focusing this year on the Cuttyhunk School and the Yacht Club. We all enjoyed the fun of hearing the perspectives of different generations. Special thanks go to the panelists, participants, moderator David Warr, and to Roxy Leeson and the Hospitality Committee for providing refreshments and coordinating these events.

Guest speakers rounded out our offerings. Author/illustrator Jerry Pallotta delighted an audience of all ages, sharing his long-time love of marine subjects. Phil Stanton gave an informative talk on migratory ducks of the Elizabeth Islands and decoys, including some in our Museum's collection, and Greg Skomal entertained us with his presentation, "The Great White Shark of Naushon Island."

Docents were the backbone of the Museum, greeting guests, answering questions, managing sales, and assisting young visitors at the Children's Table. Their friendliness and knowledge enriched the museum experience for everyone. Our volunteer corps contributed in many other ways: arranging exhibits and events; landscaping, painting and hanging signs; computer, office and library projects; photographing and taping; and research and writing — all the things that keep us going.

Again we had visiting tour groups, and CHS volunteers offered island hospitality to all. The American Canadian Caribbean Cruise Line brought two groups of Elderhostelers, organized by the South Street Seaport in NYC. Our volunteers met the boat, offered golf cart transportation, and hosted at the Museum. A small tour came from the Paul Cuffee Charter School in Providence. The trip was an auction prize at the school, which is named for and philosophically based on the life of the 18th century Cuttyhunk-born mariner, merchant, African-American leader, and founder of Sierra Leone. Another group was our old friends, George Epple, professor at Rhode Island College, with his class on "New England and the Sea." Ethel Twichell, as before, gave them a fine introduction to the island and its history.

Mars and I enjoyed being part of the Cuttyhunk community and we thank you all for sharing it with us. We look forward to seeing you at the Museum in 2006.

SANDY EARLE

LOOKING AHEAD

LOOKING AHEAD, we are delighted to be able to run the natural history exhibit again in 2006. Already, one outside group has planned a special tour, and others have made inquiries. Allie Thurston will again work with the Museum Committee, and new special events are in the planning stages.

In 2006, we will honor the 50th anniversary of the Cuttyhunk Yacht Club with **Kids on the Water** in the Akin Room. A committee from the Yacht Club is working with us. Shelly Merriam and the Museum Committee are also mounting a small exhibit for the Church as part of its 125th anniversary celebration.

Last spring, we announced a photo contest and plans for a 2007 calendar of the Elizabeth Islands. The response was terrific, with over 30 entrants submitting more than 250 images. The photographs are of wonderful quality, and they are now in the hands of the judges, who will determine the winners of placement in the calendar and the cash prizes. We also will introduce new postcards from contest images. Look for the calendar and postcards in the Museum Shop next summer. 🐟

WANTED FOR 2006 EXHIBIT

For the 50th anniversary of the Cuttyhunk Yacht Club, the CHS needs visual images — copies of photos, videos, etc. (especially of the early years) — and small mementos. Please contact Shelly Merriam at 508.278. 2133 or sjmerr@rcn.com ASAP.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

NED PREVOST has joined the board after many years of serving as a docent.



His family has summered on Cuttyhunk for more than 20 years. He often serves as the Episcopal priest during the summer. He is the rector of Christ Church Winnetka in Winnetka, Illinois.

KRIS LOMBARD has joined the board as the new Treasurer. She is a Cuttyhunker, known to all who



shop at the Island Market, which is owned by her family. She brings bookkeeping skills and much wisdom from her years serving as town selectman and assessor.

STUMPED

Who was Joe Slate, for whom the small island by the Cuttyhunk fish dock was named?