QUARTERBOARD
CUTTYHUNK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
www.cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety.org

A newsletter of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society and Museum of the Elizabeth Islands
~
P.O. Box 181, Cuttyhunk, Massachusetts 02713

ISLAND INSPIRATION

By Bob Smith, Tammis Groft

Summer on Cuttyhunk is almost here.
This year's special exhibition *Island as Muse - Art from the Cuttyhunk Historical Society Collection* will feature, for the first time, many unseen artworks in the CHS collection. New research has revealed some exciting stories and artistic connections to the Elizabeth Islands. Visitors will see more than 100 years of artwork that these islands have inspired, comprising oil paintings, watercolors and drawings, needlework, wood carving, shell mosaics, ceramics, writing and poetry.

Indeed, William Shakespeare may have been the first to discover Cuttyhunk as muse. His patron, the Earl of Southampton, was also Bartholomew Gosnold's patron. Shakespeare, at the Earl's court in the early 1600's, heard Gosnold's tales of this tempestuous and fog-shrouded place. The Tempest, Shakespeare's last play, followed shortly after.

Therein lies the legend that Cuttyhunk is the setting for the Tempest.

Two centuries later, in 1858, Albert Bierstadt took Cuttyhunk as his muse in the dreamlike painting *Gosnold on the Island of Cuttyhunk* (now in the New Bedford Whaling Museum collection).

Since that time, countless artists have made Cuttyhunk and the Elizabeth Islands their muse, as you'll discover in this year's exhibit of artworks from the Cuttyhunk Historical Society's collection.

"We are such stuff as dreams are made on."
The Tempest, Act IV

Last years 2022 CYC/CHS Model Boat Regatta

Mark Your Calendars!

June 28, CHS Museum (soft) Opening
July 1, Opening Party & Auction 5-7:30pm
July 5, 12, 19, 26 ~ August 2, 9, ASL at CHS 9am- CHS Porch
July 6, 13, 20, 27 Deaf Sailors Museum Night 5-7pm
July 18, August 15, Ladies Night at the Museum 5:30pm
July 26, August 16, Kite Days (lawn/beach) 2:30-5:30pm
July (TBD) CHS/CYC Model Boat Regatta
July 14, 28, August 11,25 CHS Movie/Trivia Night 7:00pm
August 12 CHS Annual Meeting
August 13 Tarpaulin Cove Lighthouse Field Trip 12-2pm

September 4, CHS Closing Day/Labor Day

CHS Membership Appeal 2023

Becoming a member of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society helps operational costs of the museum as well as maintaining its collection and archives. It is an investment in long-term work as well as supporting seasonal programming and events that fulfill its mission.

When you become a Member of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society you help sustain the operations of the Museum as well as maintaining its collection. As a CHS member you'll be part of voting at our annual meeting, receiving *Quarterboards* and Monographs, and participating in special exhibit previews with the curator/director. Most importantly, though, is that **your** membership helps CHS continue the work that is integral to our collective island history and is available for generations to come and enjoy!

Take a moment to become or renew your membership today, and help support CHS and the Museum. Thank ***YOU***!

https://www.cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety.org/membership/
or by mail at: PO Box 181, Cuttyhunk, MA 02713

Photo: Cold water swimmers (l-r): Tammis Groft, Robyn Weisel, Carolyn Powers

CHS President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Spring is here and with it the promise of summer adventures on the Elizabeth Islands. Cuttyhunk Historical Society is preparing for your visits with gusto. A new exhibit from the Museum's painting collection showcasing over 30 artists, programs for all ages, an open house at Tarpaulin Cove Lighthouse, and an art auction at the Opening Party are all in the works.

During the off-season CHS has been completing strategic initiatives. We hired Samantha Poirier as our part-time curator to document our accessions on PastPerfect, thus advancing physical and intellectual control of the collections. She will work during the shoulder seasons when the museum is closed. In addition, we hired Sarah Smith as bookkeeper, a major step in making the responsibilities of the Treasurer manageable.

Mass Cultural Council awarded CHS an unrestricted operating support grant this winter. The Board voted to support the Executive Director's suggestion to direct these funds to designing a new website which we plan to have operational next year. We will also produce a monograph celebrating the sesquicentennial of the Cuttyhunk Schoolhouse (1873-2023). Be sure to pick up a copy at the birthday party July 29.

As you can see we are a year-round organization, well-served by our Executive Director and YOU!

Thank you for your support. We look forward to greeting you on island and at the Museum!
My best wishes,
Carolyn

Volunteering is *Your* Amazing Way of Helping Us

At CHS there are so many ways to help- from greeting visitors to gardening to helping inventory collections. We appreciate your skills and abilities and understand how valuable your time is. Just an hour or two can help CHS accomplish many to-do's. Please get in contact with us, and let us know what you can do to help out!

Akin Room Happenings

The Akin Room is our developing dedicated, interactive space where visitors, educators, researchers and volunteers can dive into projects like their **Family Trees**, update their house information in the **House Project** and capture a story in our **Community Connection** area.

On display this year is a special volunteer curated **Sea Glass** exhibit- learn about found glass and its relationship to history!

Save the Date!

CHS Opening Party & Auction 2023

July 1, 2023 5:00-7:30 pm

Summer is right around the corner and once again the Cuttyhunk Historical Society and Museum of the Elizabeth Islands invites everyone to come celebrate the opening season!

Join friends and family on the lawn, bring a potluck item, browse the new "Islands as Muse" art exhibit, enjoy our beer table by *Deacon Brews*, share some homemade hors d'oeuvres and handmade pizzas, and of course, place your bids at our art auction!

For more information: cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Pembroke Brick (pictured above) - The bricks used in the 1860's construction of the Cuttyhunk Club were purportedly made at Canapitsit. (Photo credit: Miles Prescott)

Mystery of the Pembroke Brick

Researched by Allison Thurston

How did a brick, with the word 'Cuttyhunk' imprinted on it, end up in a chimney in a house built circa 1660 in Pembroke, Massachusetts? While renovating the historic King's Highway Inn, originally built by Quaker Robert Barker, high up in the central chimney, a hand made brick imprinted with the word ‘CUTTYHUNK’ was discovered. Then part of Duxbury, Pembroke was the well-travelled halfway point on the stagecoach route between Plymouth and Boston.

Before the 1860s, bricks were made by hand-packing clay into wood molds, and fired in wood-burning kilns. Bricks made on Cuttyhunk contained shells and air pockets with inconsistencies and irregular edges, like those used in the construction of the Cuttyhunk Club.

What could be the connection between the Elizabeth Islands and Pembroke?

Starting in 1661, the London-based 'Company of the Propagation of the Gospel in New England’ sponsored missionaries to convert the native population to Christianity. The first two missionaries to receive financial help in their work with the 'Praying Indians’ were Rev. John Eliot of Natick and Thomas Mayhew Junior of Martha’s Vineyard. Mayhew Junior, who was revered by the Martha's Vineyard natives, spoke the Wopanaak language and possessed a good understanding of their culture, but was tragically lost at sea in 1657.

The first recorded colonial dwelling on the Elizabeth Islands was built on Naushon in 1657 as a temporary dwelling for the Mayhew's missionary work. Following the death of Thomas Junior, Thomas Senior continued the work, establishing the basis for five generations of missionary work with the natives.

According to detailed receipt books kept between 1708 and 1719 by Samuel Sewall, of Salem witch trial fame, payments to the missionaries on the islands were picked up by couriers in Plymouth. Sewall, as treasurer of the Commissioners of the United Colonies, was responsible for dispersing the payments. Monies for Naushon’s preachers and teachers were collected by the owner of Naushon, Waitstill Winthrop from 1713 until his death in 1717.

Sewall also kept a meticulous diary from 1674 until his 1730 death in which he recorded travels

from his home in Boston to the capital town of Plymouth on colony business. He mentions visits in 1698, 1703 and 1717 to the Barkers, owners of the Inn where the brick has been found.
His diary also describes Waitstill Winthrop's funeral where he served as one of the 'bearers' and three years later the details of his brief and ill-fated courtship of the widow of Waitstill Winthrop.

Adding to the mystery, the first spelling of 'Cuttyhunk' on a map doesn't appear until the 1780 John Lodge map.

Getting Together in the Off Season...

This past fall several Cuttyhunk friends got together in the White Mountains to reconnect and relax. If you have photos you'd like to share of your off-island adventures, please send them to us to use in our newsletters. We love to see what you're up to!
cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety@gmail.com
(l-r:Aimee Lombard, Robyn Weisel, Janel Nagtegaal, Heidi Frothingham, Quinnie Hornbach, and Cheryl Walker-Hemingway.)

In memoriam...

Tess Day
(text to come)

CHS Museum Acquisitions 2023

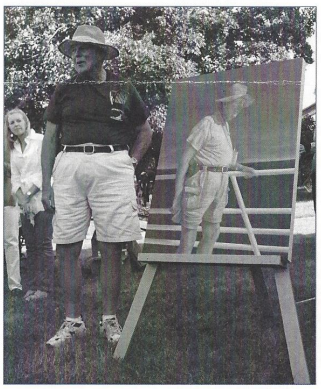
Anonymous Donor
Oil painting, *Alan Wilder*, 2014, artist Tamlin Baumgarten
Alan Wilder (1933?-)

J.Bruce Borges. *Lure*-wood, hand carved by donor.
Wooden "Popper" lure hand-carved by Bruce Borges to resemble pogie (menhaden), bait fish for striped bass.

J. Bruce Borges(b.1937) Son of New Bedford fisherman Edward A. Borges, who also made collectible handmade lures

***Cuttyhunk Church*, early to mid 20th c., artist Harry Neyland**
Harry A. Neyland (1877-1958) Born in McKean PA, Harry Neyland worked as a sculptor, painter and illustrator. While best known for his impressionist landscapes, marine views, ship portraits and town-scapes, he also worked an an illustrator for a variety of magazines. He was

Tamalin Soleil Baumgarten (1986-) Oil on board, 2014 Gift of the Town of Gosnold, 2023.
Tamalin Baumgarten received her BFA from Cornish College of the Arts in 2010 and her MFA from New York Academy of Art in 2015. She has won two Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation grants and awards from the Dahesh Museum, the New York Academy of Arts Portrait Scholarship, and The Vermont Studio Center. Baumgarten was the founder and director of the Cuttyhunk Island Artists' Residency. Working in the realist tradition, the people and views of Cuttyhunk serve as inspiration of her work. This portrait depicts well-known islander, Alan Wilder.



Alan Wilder, back to back with portrait by Tamalin Baumgarten, purchased by several anonymous donors and presented to the town at the 2014 CHS opening party. CHS is pleased to be the first site for viewing the painting.
Photo courtesy of Paul Aracena

called *Cuttyhunk Poppers*, sold to collectors for up to $1000. Borges came to Cuttyhunk at 16 to work for legendary guide Irwin 'Coot' Hall. He served at the Coast Guard station, and married 6th generation Cuttyhunker Caroline Cornell, daughter of Thomas and Caroline Cornell. Famous as a lobsterman, he is a renowned charter captain.

an expert on the New Bedford whaling industry.
Neyland attended the Zanerian Art College in Columbus, Ohio before training at the Pratt Art Institute in Brooklyn under John Wesley Dow and at the Arts Students League in New York City. He traveled extensively in England and studied with Henry B. Snell, then on to Paris where he attended the Academies Colarossi and Julian. He served at the art director at the New York Military Academy at Cornwall on Hudson, then moved to Canada to direct the Hamilton Art School. In 1911 he moved to New Bedford, Massachusetts to lead the Swain Free School of Design. He maintained a studio in New Bedford and on Cuttyhunk Island until the latter was washed away during the 1938 hurricane. Neyland exhibited his work at the Providence Art Club, the National Academy of De- sign, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, the Boston Art Club, and the New Bed- ford Art Club. Today, his works are the in collection of the mariners Museum in Newport News, The New Bedford Whaling Museum, and on Cuttyhunk.

American Sign Language Classes on the CHS Porch

Join friends of all ages on the CHS porch/steps and learn basic American Sign Language (ASL)!

Robyn Weisel, CHS Executive Director, will be teaching simple signs, gestures and the history of ASL on Wednesday mornings from 9-9:30am. Stop by for an informal and natural way to learn signs.

Participants are encouraged to use/test their skills with our visiting Deaf sailing community on Thursday Nights in July on the lawn.

For more info:
cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or 802-380-6796

CHS Website Designer Needed!

CHS is looking to hire a website designer/developer that can revamp our on-line presence and enable us to be more accessible and interactive.

We are interested in an experienced person or company that can create a new look and feel but also let our volunteers the capability to input information easily and update as needed. If interested, get in touch: **cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety@gmail.com**

New Bookstore Items

- Tricia Mansfield artwork
- Allie Goodrich artwork
- David Hinson artwork
- Jennifer Dorr and Jewelry
- Stephanie Drieze Cards
- CHS Beverage Canisters
- Children's and YA Books

...and much more! Stop by!

This SUMMER's Exhibit 2023

ISLAND AS MUSE

ART from the CUTTYHUNK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION

Photos of paintings from the latest exhibit below: ***Museum Hours : Wed-Sun 10:30-2:30***
Barges Beach by Richard Ewen (1928-2009)
Gosnold at Cuttyhunk by Albert Bierstadt (1830-1902)

Welcome to CHS!

Curator, Samantha Poirier

Wanderer Exhibit

We Need YOUR Help!

We look further forward to 2024, the 100th anniversary of the *Wanderer* shipwreck. In order to make this an engaging and fascinating exhibit, we are soliciting the help of our community. We are looking for volunteers, researchers, historians, and educators to help build an exciting show. We will be setting up a committee of interested volunteers soon. Please let us know if you're interested or have something to share/donate/tell us about!
Please contact us:

cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

CHS welcomes our new part-time curator, Samantha Poirier! Samantha comes to CHS with a strong background in museum curation and exhibit work. Coming from Florida, she is new to New England and excited to explore Cuttyhunk. Samantha will be working pre/post season.

2023
CHS Staff & Board

Robyn Weisel
Executive Director

Anna Nagtegaal
Museum Assistant

Samantha Poirier
Curator

Sarah Smith
Bookkeeper

Carolyn Powers
President of the Board

George Shaw
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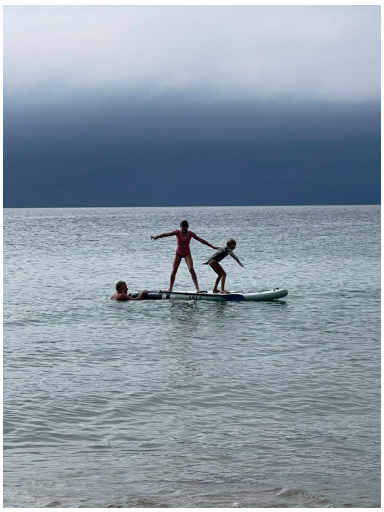

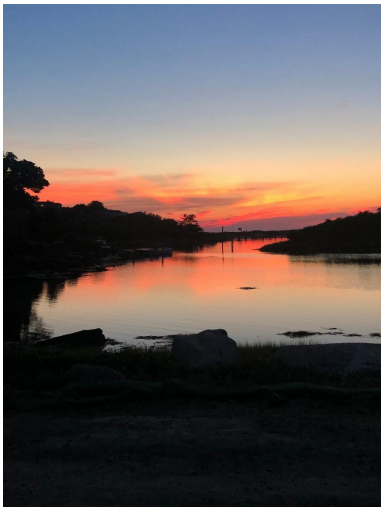

Cuttyhunk Historical Society & Museum of the Elizabeth Islands

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Serving the Elizabeth Islands
PO Box 181
23 Tower Hill Road
Cuttyhunk Island, MA 02713

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Hours of Museum
Wednesday-Sunday
10:30-2:30pm

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The purpose of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society is to record and preserve the history, traditions, and artifacts of Cuttyhunk Island and the Elizabeth Islands of Massachusetts, and to engage the community and public through education, exhibitions, and outreach.

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All CHS photos by or collected by Robyn Weisel

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

Visit our website for membership and to make a donation. Click HERE!

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