



Serving the Elizabeth Islands Since 1978 ■ Summer Telephone 508.984.4611  
P.O. Box 181 ■ Cuttyhunk, Massachusetts 02713

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*A newsletter of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society and Museum of the Elizabeth Islands **Spring 2026***

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## **Paul Cuffe, *Blockade Runner***

The Mayflower II Fuller Shallop Summer Tour

*Rachel Garfield*

This August there will be a commemorative voyage celebrating *Revolution 250* and honoring Paul Cuffe's Revolutionary War blockade-running exploits. Cuffe was born on Cuttyhunk in 1759 to an African American father and a Wampanoag mother. As a teenager he delivered essential supplies to Nantucket while evading the British Navy. His story is one of the many that shaped the American Revolution. The Mayflower II Fuller Shallop and its crew, outfitted in colonial garb, will retrace Cuffe's historic routes with Massachusetts ports-of-call including Westport Point, Clark's Cove, Cuttyhunk and Nantucket.

The shallop will arrive on Cuttyhunk August 18th and depart on the 20th for Nantucket. She will be docked at the Fish Dock for viewing and for conversation with the crew. Allie Thurston will lead a walk on the 19th focusing on Cuffe and how Cuttyhunk and the surrounding waters shaped his role in history. This event will be a celebration of regional history and maritime heritage and we encourage islanders to take part!

**Look for more information to come on our website, social media, and flyers around the island. [www.cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety.org)**

*Celebrating Captain Paul Cuffe*



Mayflower II's Shallop Voyage: South Coast and the Islands  
August 14 – August 21, 2026

## What is a Shallop?



A **Shallop** is a small boat used primarily in the 17th and 18th centuries for coastal exploration, river navigation, and light transport. They were typically 25-30 feet long, open-decked, and made of wooden planks (often oak). All were equipped with oars and one or two sails, allowing them to be rowed or sailed depending on conditions. They relied on lee-boards, rather than a centerboard or keel, and drew less than two (2) feet of water, making them ideal for navigating the creeks, estuaries, and shallow bays typical of waters around Cape Cod, on Massachusetts South Coast and in Nantucket sound. They could carry up to three tons of cargo including a crew of up to 15 men. The word “shallop” comes from the Middle French *chaloupe*, meaning small boat.

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## CHS Opening Party & Auction 2026

This summer, CHS's Opening Party and Annual Auction will take place on July 4th, which will also be our country's 250th Celebration - what a great way to kick off the season!

This year there are wonderful items for every budget from handmade jewelry and textiles to vacation get-aways, prints, and baskets of goodies. There are many more exciting and beautiful auction items that will be on hand.

Everyone is welcome to join the fun, bring a food item to share, enjoy a drink on the lawn with friends and family and support CHS and the Museum!

## Weekend Away On The Northern Neck Of Virginia



Top left-clockwise, vacation home in Virginia, jewelry by Steph Drieze, hand-dyed apron by Bev Snow, and giclee by Paul Huntley.



## Membership Appeal 2026!

Spring is a great time to renew or join CHS. As a free and accessible museum, we rely on support from members, visitors, grants and donations. We are a volunteer-based organization that uses the talents and skills as well as resources to enrich and engage the community by providing educational exhibits, events and programming for all ages and abilities.

Our nominal yearly membership contributes to the sustainability of the only public museum on the Elizabeth Islands and we work hard to preserve its unique history and tell the stories that make it so special.

We encourage you to visit our new website and join today or use the link below to directly donate to CHS and while you are there, explore all the cool information we have added to the site. We thank you in advance for your meaningful donation and for making CHS and the work we do available and interesting for everyone!

[Visit our website and become a member HERE!](#)

Summer at the Museum ~ Save the Dates!

## Everyone is Invited!

June 27-28, Museum Opens- weekend  
10:30-2:30 Sat/Sun

July 4, Opening Party & Auction  
on the Lawn 5:30-7:30pm

July 10, Lauren Wolk, Author Visit 4:30pm

July 18, First Art and Makers Fair  
on the Lawn, 3-5:30pm

July 31, Cindy Elder Author Talk, 4:30pm

August 1, CHS Annual Meeting 10:30-12pm

August 8, Art and Makers Fair on the Lawn, 3-5:30pm

August 19-21, Shallop Island Tour  
*Blockade Runners* - Various Island Events

\*check the CHS website and look for flyers for updates and locations  
on these events and other programming.



### Summer Author Series ~ Lauren Wolk and Cindy Elder

If you haven't read *Beyond the Bright Sea*, you're in for a treat. This beloved book is a Cuttyhunk treasure for all ages and we are lucky to have Lauren visit and tell us more about her process as well as sign her books.

July 10 in the Cuttyhunk Church 4:30

<https://laurenwolk.com/>

Cindy Elder will chat about her new book series *Tales of the Sea*, a two-part historical fiction series. She will have books for sale and signing.

July 31, 1:30pm in the Museum



On View in the Bosworth Room

***Hidden Histories: Shipwrecks of the Elizabeth Islands***

*\*New additions and updates  
Come visit soon!*

**Museum Hours: Wed.- Sunday  
10:30-2:30pm, and by appointment**

[www.cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety.org)  
[cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)



**From the President of the Board**

*Carolyn Powers*

Dear Friends,

The June picture on my calendar features Church's Beach as seen at the end of last summer. What a sight, sand from end to end! Although the beach today may not resemble the photo, its promise is always beckoning. And so too is another season for CHS's Museum of the Elizabeth Islands. Robyn and Sam are back with some new additions to the "Hidden Histories" exhibit and exciting programs throughout July and August.

Thanks to generous donors we have an appealing range of items for the July 4 Opening Party and Auction. Enjoy a sneak preview elsewhere in this newsletter!

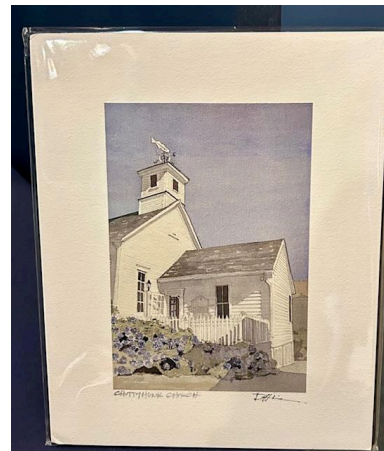
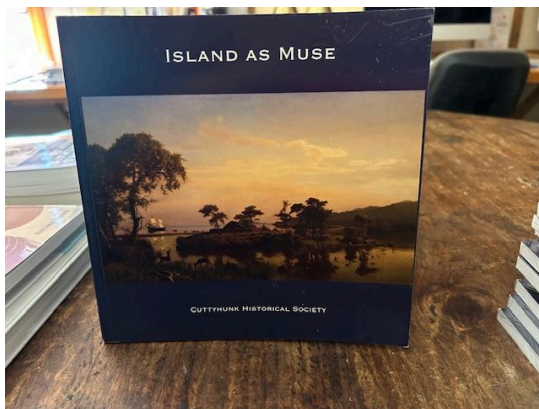
I hope to see many of you at the Annual Meeting on August 1. This will mark the end of my board service which started back in 1988 when the CHS Museum of the Elizabeth Islands was just a glimmer in the eyes of Janet Bosworth, Alec Brown, and Oriel Ponzecchi. Watching the Society grow over the years through the efforts of many volunteers into a proper museum with compelling exhibitions, intriguing programs, and professional leadership has been rewarding indeed. How fortunate I was to be the first museum employee as resident manager and, later, curator/manager (1991-2002). And my family delighted in experiencing "the magic of Cuttyhunk" over entire summers.

Soon we will be reach our fiftieth anniversary (1978-2028) with much to celebrate. Thank you for your enduring support.

Warmly,  
Carolyn Powers

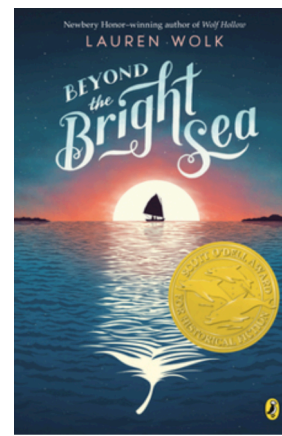
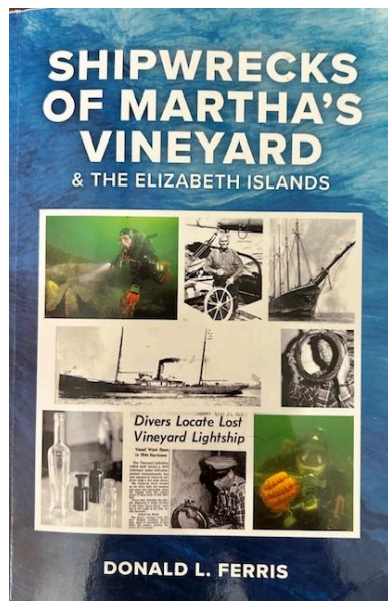
Photo by Shelly Merriam

## Museum Bookstore!



This year, we have a few interesting book offerings: Don Ferris's book on *Shipwrecks* covers many of the ships in the exhibit; Our catalog CHS book on the paintings from our last exhibit, *Island as Muse*, beautifully captured. Visiting author books will be in the museum and at the author events.

We also have a nice selection of work by local artists, including David Hinson and Maddy Goggin!  
Come check it out!



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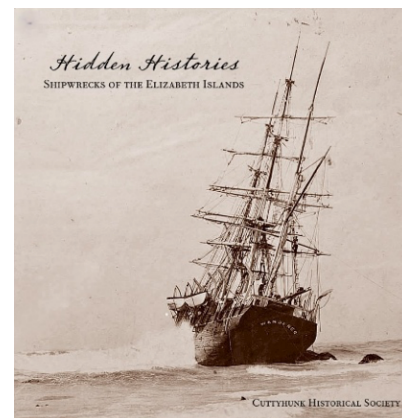
## Curator's Connection

*Samantha Poirier*

The winter months were a whirlwind, and it looks like summer at the museum will be much the same. Over the break, we worked on incorporating new material into the exhibit and adding some fun bonus content to the website. This summer, we will continue updating our collections database with photos of objects and inputting correct information for better search capabilities. We will also work on proper storage for objects, such as boxing new items and rearranging shelving to optimize space. With the help of interns and volunteers, we can expedite this process and make the collection much more accessible to researchers and those interested in learning more about Cuttyhunk and all of the Elizabeth Islands.

*Hidden Histories: Shipwrecks of the Elizabeth Islands* is returning for its second summer at the museum. For those who missed the opening last year, this is a chance to delve into the exhibit and uncover these fascinating stories. And for those returning, you can still stop in to revisit local history and see new additions, including a section on wreck diving and a *Wanderer* animation that takes you through the ship and explains its parts. You can also continue to enjoy this exhibit for years to come with a souvenir catalogue that will be available for purchase at the museum gift shop. Additionally, we are excited to announce that our last two exhibits have gone digital! *Hidden Histories* and *Island as Muse* can now be viewed in full on the Cuttyhunk Historical Society website.

***Hidden Histories: Shipwrecks of the Elizabeth Islands*** catalog book for sale this summer in the bookstore

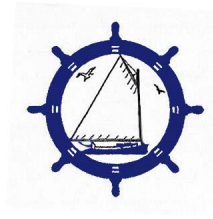
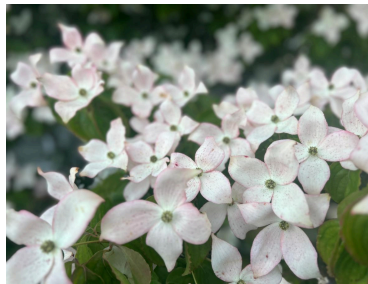
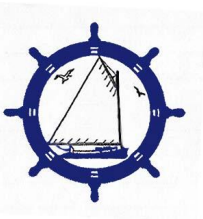


## *In Memoriam...*

Hilary Baldwin Brown (1947-2025)  
John Jamieson Bancroft, Sr. (1941-2026)  
Robert W. Carney (1941-2026)  
Susan Winet (1947-2026)



**"Our memories of the ocean will linger on, long after our footprints in the sand are gone."**



### **2026-2027 CHS Staff & Board**

**Robyn Weisel**  
*Executive Director*

**Samantha Poirier**  
*Curator/Archivist/Collections*

**Anna Nagtegaal**  
*Museum Assistant & Social Media*

**Michelle Carvalho**  
*Bookkeeper*

**Ben Sadler**  
*Winter Custodian*

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*President of the Board*

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**Horace Garfield**  
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**Bracken Hindricks**



### **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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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

Bert Nagtegaal  
Kate Parker  
Lolly Schenck  
Bev Snow



twice a year.

Visit our website for membership, donations, and information. [Click HERE!](#)

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