



HISTORIC TIMES

A Newsletter of Museums on the Green

VOLUME XXI, NUMBER 1

SPRING 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 22 Falmouth History Walk

June 6 Museums Open! & Around the Sound on the *Island Queen*

July 1 Free Fun Friday

July 15 Teddy Bear Picnic

August 11 Katharine Lee Bates poetry fest

August 27 Antique Sale

October 9 Historic House Tour

October 29 A Visit with the Night Watchman

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Conant House Looks to the Future

Conant House is on track to reopen around Labor Day, barring any unforeseen complications. At right you can see where the reshingled 1730 house joins with the newly built addition, which will contain an upgraded research library of over 1300 volumes, and a climate-controlled vault to protect over 100,000 documents and photographs from Falmouth's history. Conant's older, restored section will continue to display exhibits. This welcoming porch faces towards the Cultural Center, and a footpath will connect the two buildings. Soon, visitors will be able to navigate the campus much more easily, and they



will have a greater appreciation for how the twin aspects of the Museums' mission—archival preservation and community programming—depend on and draw from each other.

Heritage 2016 Honors a Special Group of Mariners

On April 13, the Falmouth Historical Society bestowed its 17th annual Heritage Award on Captain Thomas Bushy and the Tietje family. Shells, starfish, buoys, and nets adorned the ballroom of the Coonamessett Inn, symbolizing the maritime careers of the honorees. As guests feasted on salmon, they listened to remarks from selectman Mary Pat Flynn, state senator Vinny deMacedo, and town manager Julian Suso. Anthony Morse conveyed greetings from Congressman William Keating.

Emil "Bud" Tietje was, regrettably, unable to attend, but longtime friend Karen Rinaldo introduced his son, Jim, who received the award on his family's behalf. Thomas Bushy, principal of the Lawrence School, introduced his father. Captain Tom delighted the crowd with his straightforward sailor's demeanor, and his pride in the accomplishments of Mass Maritime graduates, many of whom were in

attendance. Thanks to the Tietjes' and Bushy's stewardship, the future will not lack for more fearless souls who will go "down to the sea in ships."

The Heritage Dinner was made possible by the Cape Cod 5 Bank, Michael Duffany Builders, Wood Lumber, the Island Queen, and the Boston Marine Society.



Left: An honor guard from the U.S. Coast Guard presented the colors just before the dinner began. Photo by Amy Rader.



Right: Jim Tietje and Captain Thomas Bushy. Photo by Amy Rader.



**Executive Director
Mark Schmidt**

DID YOU KNOW?

FALMOUTH
MALL STANDS
ON LAND THAT
ONCE WAS A
CRANBERRY
BOG.



Mourning Picture,
by Love Shiverick,
ca. 1799. Crewel on
silk. In Museums'
collection.

From the Director

We hope that you had an enjoyable winter break, be it in Falmouth or other exotic locations. We have been doing anything but hibernating these past few months. If you were not aware, the 1730 Conant House has been undergoing restoration and renovation—preserving the oldest house on the Town Green while rebuilding the late 20th century additions in the back. The new Conant will enhance visitors' experience with research, exhibits, and member services. Handicap-accessible, with a redesigned entranceway, it will complement the campus in a way not seen before. As a member, you will be justifiably proud of how the building makes use of the latest advances to protect our historical heritage. Look for Conant to reopen later this fall.

If you visit us now, you will quickly realize that the work of the museums continues, even as we undergo construction. Staff members have taken up temporary quarters: Meg Costello and Carolyn Tarr in the Wicks House, and Sarah Murphy in the lower level

of the Cultural Center, with Jennifer Krumfolz. The 'main office,' where I am quartered, is in the trailer parked outside the Hallett Barn. Here, we are busily incorporating a new database—Etapestry—to do a better job keeping records of our members, donors and supporters, and informing you more effectively about the business of the Society.

We open for the year on June 6, which also happens to be the day we do our third annual "Around the Sound" boat cruise on the *Island Queen*. **Our visiting hours will be a little different this season, as we will be open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 3 pm, and Saturday 10 am to 1 pm.**

Yes, there are changes happening, even as you read this, but these are changes for the better. We think you will really enjoy what this year will bring and we look forward to your presence on the campus. There will be plenty to do this season—please check the notices in this newsletter, visit our website, and watch your email for alerts. Come early, come often, and bring a friend!

Mark Schmidt

In Memoriam

George Hampson, 2007 Heritage Award winner, died on November 5. He suffered a stroke while sampling sediments from Buzzards Bay. A research specialist in biology at WHOI (1961-1997), George was a founding member of the Buzzards Bay Coalition. He was committed to historic preservation, and a generous mentor to many young people.

Niles Peterson (Lawrence High '41) died on December 26 at age 92. After his army discharge in 1946, he worked for his father at Swift's Market, and later as director of public welfare for the Cape & Islands. "Pete" was active at the Museums and in other groups such as the Rod & Gun Club, Masonic Lodge, and the 300 Committee.

Anne Whitin (Swift) Sawyer, age 98, a direct descendant of Elijah Swift, died on February 16. An educator, tireless volunteer, wife, and mother, she summered in Falmouth before moving here full time in 1988. She gave valuable service to the Woods Hole Foundation, Woods Hole Library and Museum, and WHOI.

Bruce Thomson died on April 20. With an engineering degree from Rensselaer as well as an MBA, he worked on nuclear submarines and at Laser Science and Textron. Bruce's hobbies included mineralogy, the Indy 500, and elaborate celebrations of Halloween. A seasoned traveler, he loved his village of North Falmouth.

Wanted: A Whaleboat

The Museums on the Green is seeking a wooden whaleboat or skiff that can be used as an interactive exhibit for museum visitors. To better illustrate what life would have been like for Falmouth's whaling industry, the Museums on the Green would like to have an onsite whaleboat that adults and children can

safely enter so as to better understand the size and dimensions that made whaling such a dangerous endeavor. If you know someone who may have a replica whaleboat that they would be willing to donate or build for the Museums, please have them contact Executive Director Mark Schmidt to discuss.



Untitled watercolor, ca. 1840, artist unknown. In Museums' collection.

Lectures

Lectures are held at 7 p.m. at the Museums, unless otherwise noted.

May 19 Reid Mitenbuler Bourbon Empire: The Past and Future of America's Whiskey

May 24 Christopher Oldstone-Moore Of Beards and Men: The Revealing History of Facial Hair

May 31 Candy Leonard Beatleness: How the Beatles and their Fans Remade the World

June 2 Jomarie Alano Partisan Diary: A Woman's Life in the Italian Resistance

June 8 Michael McNaught The Battle of Verdun, 1916

June 10 at 4 p.m. Nathaniel Philbrick Valiant Ambition: George Washington, Benedict Arnold and the Fate of the American Revolution

June 11 at 2 p.m. Misha Teramura The Professional Life of William Shakespeare

June 21 Paul Brandus Under This Roof:

The White House and the Presidency — 21 Presidents, 21 Rooms, 21 Inside Stories

June 23 David Dowling Surviving the Essex: The Afterlife of America's Most Storied Shipwreck

June 28 Julie Fenster Jefferson's America: The President, the Purchase, and the Explorers who Transformed a Nation

July 14 Robert Weintraub No Better Friend: One Man, One Dog, and Their Extraordinary Story of Courage and Survival in World War II

July 20 Charlotte Gordon Romantic Outlaws: The Extraordinary Lives of Mary Wollstonecraft and her daughter Mary Shelley

July 27 Manisha Sinha The Slave's Cause: A History of Abolition

August 10 Ian Toll The Conquering Tide: War in the Pacific Islands, 1942-1944

NO SEA BUT WHAT
IS VEXED BY THEIR
FISHERIES.

NO CLIMATE THAT
IS NOT WITNESS
TO THEIR TOILS.

EDMUND BURKE
ON NEW ENGLAND
WHALERS, 1775

Programs

Details on all of our programming may be found at www.museumsonthegreen.org.

May 22 at 9 a.m. Falmouth History Walk
This family-friendly 5k walk is designed to educate people about our historic past.

June 6 Around the Sound

July 1 Free Fun Friday

July 12-13 Cape Cod Hydrangea Fest Tour

July 15 Teddy Bear Picnic

August 11 K.L. Bates Poetry Fest

August 27 Antique Sale

October 9 Historic House Tour

October 29 A Visit with the Night Watchman

Ongoing Exhibits:

Cranberry Fever (June—Oct)

Flags from our collection (July)

Ceramics by Falmouth students (until May 25). See also the ceramics in the Museums' garden, all summer long.



Cranberry Picker, 1968. Photograph by Hugo Poisson. In the Museums' archives.

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OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday, 10-3

RESEARCH
By appointment

MUSEUM VISITATION
(Check in at Hallett Barn)
Opening June 6
Monday – Friday, 10 - 3
Saturday, 10 - 1

STAFF

Exec. Director Mark Schmidt
Collections Jennifer Krumfolz
Events Carolyn Tarr
Marketing Sarah Murphy
Research Meg Costello

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New Acquisitions for the Archives

From the photos above, you can see how the Conant project is rapidly progressing. When the new vault is ready to receive its contents, our longtime holdings will be joined by some fascinating new acquisitions that have come in over the last six months.

Memorabilia from Camp Cowasset
This collection includes a personal diary, scrapbook, and photographs kept by Miriam Thomas of Quincy, who stayed at this Wild Harbor camp for well-to-do girls in the late 1930s. Her struggles with horseback riding and hijinks with her cabin-mates are detailed with gusto.

Beebe business papers A long-neglected storage unit in Cambridge was recently found to contain a treasure trove of Beebe family business papers spanning ca. 1878-1950. We're still sorting through these, but we've already found some meticulous accounts for Highfield Hall. The Beebes' precision in money matters is now benefitting us.

Theatrical ephemera We received dozens of original, silk-screened posters advertising shows put on by the Oberlin College Players. Their colorful, 1960s aesthetic evokes a time that is now historic, though still remembered by many.

Antique Appeal

Do you have some things in your attic that are simply collecting dust and no one in your family values as much as you do? Well, we value them! Consider donating these items for us to sell at the Antiques Show on August 27. (By the way: this is a tax-deductible donation!)

Search your attic, basement and spare rooms for those once-cherished treasures that are ready to be passed on. We welcome all antiques and collectibles as long as they are in reasonable condition. Jewelry, both precious and costume, handbags and vintage toys are very successful! You may drop them off at the office (55 Palmer Avenue) on Saturdays starting in June, or, if possible, we can try to pick them up. Call the office at 508-548-4857 to make arrangements.

Please note, however, that the Society may not assign a dollar value to donated items. If you require an appraisal, please obtain it prior to your donation.

Volunteer Meeting

Welcome back volunteers! We are looking forward to an exciting season at the Museums on the Green. If you are a returning volunteer, thank you! If you have interest in volunteering for our organization and would like to learn more about the volunteer program, **please join us on Wednesday, May 25th, at 11:00 a.m. in our Cultural Center.** This will be an opportunity to see what we do, as well as to take a look at our beautiful campus.

This season we are in specific need of docents on Friday afternoons, help in our museum gift shop, and substitutes for all shifts and positions.

Please stop by on May 25th. You can bring a friend, meet new ones, and enjoy some refreshments while you get a glimpse of all of the exciting things happening at the Museums!