



HISTORIC TIMES

A Newsletter of Museums on the Green

VOLUME XX, NUMBER 2

FALL 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Oct 26 Volunteer Ap-
preciation Lunch

Oct 30 Visit with the
Night Watchman

Dec 4 Members' re-
ception, Wicks House

Dec 5-6, 10-13 Christ-
mas at the Museums

Jan 16 Annual Meet-
ing

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"Christmas Traditions" Come Alive This December

Although we recently bade farewell to summer, Christmas is right around the corner! Mark your calendar for our Members' Reception on Friday, Dec. 4 and preview the Wicks House festively decked out by the Falmouth Garden Club. Learn more about the history of the holiday as you tour its rooms, each one showcasing a different tradition.

The Museums will be open on Dec. 5 and 6 (Sat. and Sun.), and Dec. 10-13 (Thurs.-Sun.), from 10 am to 3 pm. Admission is \$5. Children will enjoy a special visit from Santa during our Family Night on Dec. 5 from 4 to 8 pm. Warm up with some hot cocoa before heading over to the lighting of the Green!



*From his perch on the parlor wall, Thatcher Lewis looks ready to exclaim, "We never had such Christmas trees in my day!"
Photo taken at the Wicks House in December 2014.*

Capital Campaign Underway to Restore Conant House

The Museums on the Green has embarked on a project to restore and renew Conant House, the oldest house in the Falmouth Village Historic District, and a keystone of the campus.

The building consists of a front block facing Palmer Avenue with an ell behind, dating back to approximately 1730. Boasting a fascinating history of former residents, Conant House has been a barometer for how the town has grown, changed, and evolved over the past 300 years. Today it is home to an exhibit area, offices, and a research center – all critical functions for Falmouth Historical Society's mission to preserve and share Falmouth's history.

The building has not been renovated for over 50 years and is in dire need of work – from the roof to the foundation. Critical preservation is urgently needed on this important example of 18th century architecture. The oldest part, in front, will be restored. The rear sections will be rebuilt to create a fully functional and efficient 21st century interior with a universally accessible first floor. A new main entrance, facing the other museum buildings, will allow for an integrated campus that is welcoming to researchers and visitors alike.

To date, Falmouth Historical Society has raised over \$500,000 of the \$1.3 million

(Continued on page 3)



**Executive Director
Mark Schmidt**

ZIPPORAH FISH'S
EPITAPH IN THE OLD
BURYING GROUND
READS:
IN LIFE
BELOV'D
IN DEATH
NOT FORGOTTEN



**New Year's greet-
ing card ca. 1900.
From the Muse-
ums' archives.**

From the Director

The **Volunteer Appreciation Lunch** will be held on Monday, October 26, at 11:30 a.m. Our **Annual Meeting** is scheduled for Saturday, January 16 at 10 a.m. Both events will be in the Cultural Center.

Have you been reading **our new blog, "Untold Tales of Falmouth?"** Every Friday, it provides a new snippet of Falmouth history, usually inspired by an object in our collection. <http://museumsongreen.org/untold-tales-of-falmouth/>

Forty-nine of our ship's logs and account books are being digitized through a grant secured by the Falmouth Public Library. Soon researchers will be able to view the logs on CDs, saving wear and tear on the origi-

nals, and allowing readers to zoom in on specific entries.

Would you like to work at the Museums? We are seeking a **House Manager** to oversee public rental events in our Cultural Center. This task requires some night and weekend availability. To learn more, contact Events Manager Carolyn Tarr at 508-548-4857 x 20 or at eventsfhs@cape.com.

Finally, the Museums are seeking a **video camera** to record some of our programming. If you are willing to donate a video camera in good working condition, please contact Mark Schmidt at 508-548-4857 x 10 or at directorfhs@cape.com.

Mark Schmidt

In Memoriam

Sally Manny Cross died on July 17. She received the Historical Society's 2014 Heritage Award for her support of the Museums and other local institutions such as Highfield Hall, the VNA, Fairwinds Clubhouse, and the Artists' Guild. Her sea glass art was widely admired. The Conant House driveway, officially named "Sally's Alley," is a tribute to her generous and whimsical spirit.

Barbara Brayton Espey, longtime Fal-

mouth resident, died in April. A social worker skilled in the opioid treatment field, she was active with the Democratic Committee and League of Women Voters. She also served as a library trustee.

Carol Vail, a valued member of the Museums' Collections Committee, died in April. She was active in the choir and thrift shop at the Waquoit Congregational Church, and loved antiquing.

Welcome to New Members since April 2015

Jane Bradford
James Callahan
Carol Chittenden & family
Susan Clark
Peter Cook
Elizabeth Craig
Donna DeSimone Buckley
& Troy Clarkson
J. Martin Devine
Lisa & Mark Dwyer
David & Loretta Garrison
Katherine Gray & family
Margaret Guggina
Mary Heard

Virginia Johnson
Nancy Kaye & family
Marcia & Ronald Klattenberg
Roger Kligler & family
Marilyn & James LaFratta
James & Alice Liljestriano
Frank Lord & family
Leon & Joanne Malkin
Carolyn Martin
Alicia & Jim McGrath
John McNay
Nancy McPherson & family
Anthony Rawson & family
Anne & Philip Robertson

Marika Roth
Verne Roy & family
David & Kathy Scadden
Paul & Carolyn Silvia
John & Betsy Stegeman
Garvin Tate
Kathy Tunsley
Kathleen Twomey
Gary & Linda Walker
Elaine Wallace
Scott Wayne
Paul Wheeler & family
William Wheeler
Sheri White & Meghan Hanawalt

Wanted: Vintage and Antique Toys

For our holiday exhibition in 2015 we are creating a display featuring the most popular toys from the 20th century. Check your attic for any of the following classics and be sure to join us in December and relive your most magical memories of Christmas.

To lend or donate any of the following toys, please contact Amanda Wastrom at curatorfhs@cape.com.

1920's

Vintage Yo-Yo

1930's

Stuffed Mickey Mouse

Sock Monkey

Red Ryder BB Gun

1940's

Vintage Slinky

1950's

Silly Putty

Tonka Truck

Barbie

Chatty Cathy

1960's

G.I Joe

Easy-Bake Oven

Rock'em Sock'em Robots

1970's

Stretch Armstrong

Star Wars Action Figure

1980's

Rubik's Cube

1990's

Super Soaker

Beanie Baby



Ceramic doll's head in Museums' collection.

Lectures and Special Events

Lectures (Held at 7 pm at the Museums)

Oct 21 M.T. Anderson Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad

Oct 27 Alix Christie Gutenberg's Apprentice

Nov 11 David O. Stewart The Wilson Conversion

Nov 12 Katie Moose Massachusetts Culinary History: Food & Herbs Used through the Civil War

Nov 17 Matthew Lawrence Shipwrecks of Stellwagen Bank

Dec 3 Ken Turino New England Christmas Traditions

Special Event

Oct 30 6-9 pm A Visit with the Night Watchman Meet assorted ghouls and ghosts on our campus.

Exhibit (at Museums' Cultural Center)

Through Oct 23 The Bay State: A Multicultural Landscape, Portraits of New Americans Woods Hole photographer Mark Chester traveled the state, photographing immigrants who now call Massachusetts home. This exhibition shows photographs from his upcoming book of the same title.

DID YOU KNOW?

SANTA CLAUS

WOULD VISIT

FALMOUTH CONGREGATIONALISTS

AT NEW YEAR'S,

NOT CHRISTMAS.

Campaign to Restore Conant House

(Continued from page 1)

needed, which comprises donations from foundations, individuals, and businesses, in addition to grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund and the Falmouth Community Preservation Committee.

Falmouth Historical Society was founded in 1900 and is the oldest such organization on Cape Cod. With over 10,000 visitors a year, it is the repository of the rich history of Falmouth. Board President Caroline Lloyd un-

derscored the imperative nature of the restoration. "The importance of the project for preserving and sharing Falmouth history now, and for future generations, cannot be overstated," she said. "History matters. It gives us all a sense of place and helps us to understand what came before us."

For more information about the project, visit museumsongreen.org and click on "Restore and Renew Conant House" in the upper right corner.



People work, do research, and visit exhibits in Conant House year-round, making it a hub of campus activity.

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PHONE 508-548-4857
EMAIL fhs@cape.com
WEBSITE

museumsongthegreen.org

OFFICE HOURS (Conant)
Tuesday - Friday, 10 - 4

RESEARCH (Conant)
Tuesday & Thursday, 10 - 2

MUSEUM VISITATION
(Check in at Hallett Barn)
June 9 through Oct 30
Tuesday - Friday, 11 - 4
Saturday, 11 - 2

STAFF

Exec. Director Mark Schmidt
Collections Jennifer Krumfolz
Curator Amanda Wastrom
Events Carolyn Tarr
Marketing Sarah Murphy
Membership Cathy McDonnell
Research Meg Costello

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Cynthia Furtado
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Help us display vintage toys like these for Christmas. See page 3.



Museums on the Green
P.O. Box 174
Falmouth, MA 02541

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Celebrate Your Fall and Winter Holidays with Us

Pay a **Visit with the Night Watchman** on **October 30** to hear the funny, sad, and gruesome stories of restless spirits from Falmouth's history. Proceeds will benefit our educational programming. See details in the display ad at right.

Join us this December to celebrate "Christmas Traditions." The Wicks House will be decorated to illustrate the history of beloved holiday traditions including Santa, gift giving, Christmas trees, Dickens's "A Christmas Carol," and chocolate. Doll-houses and decorated trees will adorn the Hallett Barn, where you can browse for stocking stuffers in the Gift Shop. **The Museums will be open Dec. 5-6 (Sat. & Sun.), and Dec. 10-13 (Thurs.-Sun.), from 10 to 3 pm. Admission is \$5 for adults; free for children under 12. On Dec. 5, Santa will visit between 4 and 8 pm.**

Balsam wreaths decorated by the Falmouth Garden Club, Museums staff, and others will be for sale for \$35 each, with proceeds to benefit the Museums. Stay tuned for more details on how you can get yours.

Ken Turino will speak on Dec. 3 at 7:00 pm about Christmas traditions. Find out why Christmas was so slow to arrive in New England, and who brought it here!

