



ORLEANS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OrleansHistoricalSociety.org

PO Box 353, 3 River Road, Orleans, MA 02653

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History lives here

AUTUMN 2014

Orleans is More Than Just Downtown

The Orleans Historical Society (OHS) has been dedicated to preserving our Town’s heritage, respecting our past, and making our history and culture available to both residents and visitors since 1958. Our interests range from our maritime heritage to artists and woodcarvers; from historic houses and buildings to those who served as Orleans Surfmen in the United States Lifesaving Service; from the first shipwreck off of Cape Cod shores to the often surprising involvement of Orleans in the nation’s wars.

The countless residents and visitors who have visited our museum over the last 56 years, attended our presentations, concerts, and special programs, or who have joined our organization have seen our commitment to the history and preservation of the Town as a truly special place.

It is from this perspective that OHS has been following the recent discussions about the

“village heritage.” We value our natural and authentic surroundings.

◆ Improvements and changes must have positive benefits for all of Orleans and its people. History and culture are Town-wide, and the future depends on a vibrant seasonal and year-round community with a broad range of needs and interests. Focus should not be placed on one part of Town.

◆ Proponents of change must be completely inclusive and transparent. No one group can claim ownership of Orleans’ heritage; there must be Town-wide consensus regarding any improvements--both physical and cultural.

As the Town focuses on its future, OHS seeks to be a positive contributor.

Our mission and principles speak to a shared sense of community and pride. We appreciate the support received from the community and look forward to continued and expanded public participation.

We are concerned that many “Imagine Orleans” proposals are inconsistent with OHS principles, and most are focused exclusively within the newly drawn “Cultural District” surrounding Main Street. What about the Old Mill and Town Cove near the Orleans rotary, the grand old architecture in East Orleans, historic Rock Harbor on Cape Cod Bay, Schoolhouse Park and Pleasant Bay in South Orleans, and many other landmarks around Town? We say: Orleans is more than just downtown...much more.



1858 Walling Map Orleans detail

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future of the Town, sparked by the Orleans Community Partnership’s “Imagine Orleans” display at Snow Library and Town Hall. Our mission forms the foundation for the principles that we support with respect to Town development and change:

◆ Change should respect our Town’s history and New England seaside



ORLEANS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Chairman's Newsletter

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Fall 2014

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The Historical Society, through its Mission Statement and principles, is what both my wife, Anne, and I value and promote. My father-in-law was a true historian, so much so, that the last book he read was "The History of Ancient Egypt." Anne very much follows in her father's footsteps and their love for history has nicely rubbed off on me.

As I age, I find it disconcerting that as the younger generations come along, they don't seem to embrace history like my father-in-law's generation. As parents begin to downsize, and want to pass along the family heirlooms, children don't seem interested. That concerns me. I am seeing more and more Estate Sales occurring as families downsize, move, or have passed on. Estate sales, or auctions, now seem to be the method used to dispose of family heirlooms.

Looking for ways to save history, the board feels it is important to re-express our Mission and principles to the residents of Orleans and to our membership, and ensure that as we "change," we do so while respecting our history and our heritage. That's the reason for our front-page message in this newsletter.

If you have ever attended one of Eldred's auctions in Dennis, as Anne and I have often, you can sometimes overhear collectors see the beauty in a piece of furniture, a sterling silver spoon or in an old painting. As they view the piece and talk to their spouse, partner or friend, they imagine where the item might have been in its history. If you continue to follow that collector as he/she comes upon a refurbished piece, you can hear the disappointment about how some of the history, or story, was destroyed when it was refurbished.

History has the ability to withstand time when getting some tender loving care, but if we choose to renovate, like my example, future generations will have lost some of that history. We must never let future generations forget the 1814 militiamen, who marched to Rock Harbor to defend their town; the surfmen who risked their lives saving the lives of others imperiled at sea; the artists and photographers who enriched our culture; or the many other men and women of our history upon whose shoulders we stand today.

Through the efforts of the Historical Society, led by the wonderful Bonnie Snow, each year, we expose the 4th and 5th graders at the Elementary and Middle Schools to our town's history. Just one small way we can demonstrate to that generation the importance of history.

For your part, please take some time before winter sets in and stop by the Meeting House with your children, or better yet, your grandchildren, and share some history with them, or tell them a bedtime story of what it was like when you were their age. Please also attend a Historical Society lecture or concert; take one of Bonnie Snow's history walks or drive to Rock Harbor and inspect the CG36500.

Help us keep history alive by spreading our Mission and our principles to all generations – present and future, and if you aren't already a member, please join the Orleans Historical Society – you'll find the membership enriching, fun, and rewarding with pride about our legacy.

As always, thanks for allowing me to be your Chairman,

Mark E. Carron, Chairman

NOTES ON THE BATTLE OF ORLEANS

Ron Petersen

As a follow-up to the Town's commemoration of the December 19, 1814 Battle of Orleans, we thought it appropriate to present some wrap-up thoughts on the battle, the War of 1812, and our Town.

By all accounts, things were pretty bleak in the Northeastern region of the United States as 1814 drew to a close. The war was not going well for the fledgling new American nation. New England was pretty much boxed in by the powerful British Blockade, putting a major dent in the economy of the entire region. It has been estimated that the value of exports from New England fell by 95% between the years 1807-1814, and over 1400 merchant ships were seized as prizes by the British Navy and sent to Halifax or the Caribbean. Cape Cod, with its dependence on maritime commerce for its livelihood, was particularly hard hit.

The news from the war front wasn't much better. The British stepped up efforts to "bring the war home" to the coastal towns of the region, beginning with the January 28 shelling of Falmouth, the June shelling and invasion of Wareham, the August attack on Stonington, CT, and perhaps the biggest blow in September, when British forces under Sir John Sherbrooke invaded the eastern coast of Maine, and after several battles, proclaimed the territory back under British title with the name "New Ireland". This action stood until reversed by the Treaty of Ghent in December 1814. To add insult to injury, a British force occupied Washington City and set fire to several public buildings, including the White House, causing the government to flee. In short, 1814 was not a very good year.

It was amid this backdrop that the small town of Orleans stood tall. In September, the Town refused a ransom demand for \$1000 by *HMS Spenser* Captain Richard Ragget, who threatened to shell the salt works if the money was not paid. While neighboring towns paid similar ransoms, Orleans did not. Then on December 19, the British ship *HMS Newcastle*'s Captain Stuart dispatched four armed barges under the command of Lt. Frederick Marryat and Midshipman Charles Underwood. On Marryat's barge was a small force of 8 marines and 14 seamen. The purpose of this mission was to recover spars and other gear that the *Newcastle* had thrown overboard in response

to a recent grounding on a sandbar. Stuart had learned that much of the gear had been damaged or destroyed, and intended to punish the Town.

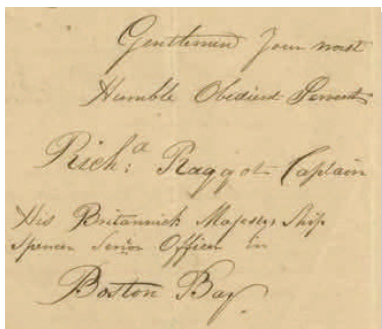
Orleans indeed rose to the occasion. After Marryat's marines set upon the salt works, they were fired on by three militiamen who had been stationed in the area as sentinels. One British marine was reported killed by this volley. Shortly thereafter, two companies of Orleans Militia arrived under the command of Captains Higgins and Knowles. As this force likely numbered near one hundred according to militia records, the force would have appeared overwhelming to Marryat's small contingent. He ordered the Marines to cover the retreat to the barge and withdrew. It was likely a very short battle with no artillery or navel bombardment involved. The British likely never ventured any further than the salt works.

The Battle of Orleans occurred just a few days before the peace negotiators in Ghent reached agreement on a treaty to end the war, this occurring on Christmas Eve of 1814. As word travelled slowly in those days, word of the agreement did not reach Washington until February 14, 1815, not in time to stop the larger Battle of New Orleans on January 9.

Small as the battle was in the larger context of the war, it speaks volumes about the character of those who inhabited Orleans at the time. Their homes were threatened; they took action, and prevailed. We are still proud that Captain Stuart of the *Newcastle* later referred to us as "those wretches in Orleans".

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War of 1812 Ransom Request Available Now!



Printed from the original ransom note sent to Orleans Selectmen, "September 1814, by Rich. Raggot Captain, His Britannick Majesty's Ship, *Spencer*, Senior Officer in Boston Bay."

(Poster image - 9" x 15")

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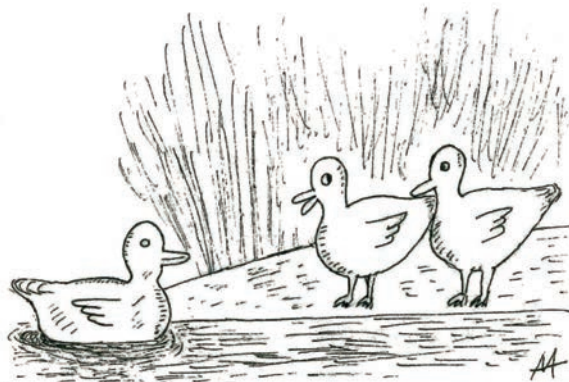
Bruce and Sheryl Wolf

Goose Hummock Camp Maurence "Square" Gould

Goose Hummock Camp, it was a fine little camp located on the dunes, beyond the Eastham Coast Guard Station. It was probably a mile or so from the parking lot, across from the station. It belonged to my uncle Willis Gould of East Orleans. That's where he owned his real estate office and home. He was a great gunner of upland and waterfowl of all kinds. And whenever the opportunity arose he would get down to his camp and get in some hunting. He was an expert in the field of hunting ducks and geese. Being from the old market hunting days when they used to hunt for a living, and send the birds to Boston to the finest hotels. He always liked to hunt on a small hummock with a few tufts of grass around it. This is the place they called "Goose Hummock" so the camp was named after it. This little hummock is long forgotten by many when it was washed away in a large storm that we had during the winter, and the camp has been gone also, gone, but not forgotten. The place where it once stood is all filled in, also the marsh that stood in front of it. The present inlet is way north from where it used to be, and I would judge that the inlet is beyond where the camp used to set in the dunes with many other camps, including Dick Brown's and my camp called Backlash Camp.

The water keeps chewing away at the dunes and the inlet is changing constantly, and a good many acres of prime dunes have been lost, along with acres of marshland where we once hunted. There is not a camp to be seen on that stretch of dunes where there were many dotted all along the dunes. It is more like a large sand bar now with a few bunches of beach grass still hanging on. In a heavy nor'easter now the waves wash over it in many cuts in the dunes. It is only a matter of time before it will all disappear and the ocean will be in on the inner shore. My grandfather told me that when he and Jake Richardson used to hunt foxes over on that stretch of dunes, it took 4 men walking side by side with lanterns, should a fox pass and be able to be seen at a distance of 100 yards between each man. That will tell you how wide it was back in the early 1900s. I expect that the surf, and the main beach will be on the Tonset shore someday, not too far away either from the way things are looking right now.

** Maurence Gould's duck and wildfowl carvings are currently on display at the OHS Museum. Courtesy of the Gould family.*



"We were together three weeks before I realized he was a decoy."

The Balcony Bulletin

Recent donations: John Cullity, 7 B & W photo postcards of Orleans; Natalie Pierce, USCG "Keepers" box belonging to Capt. Pierce; Bob Howard, digital image of Tonset/Weeset aerial view c. 1940s



Motor Lifeboat CG 36500

CG36500.org

Summer berth, Rock Harbor, Orleans, MA
 Winter berth, Nauset Marine East, Orleans, MA



BUSINESSS MEMBERS

- A Little Inn on Pleasant Bay*
- Agway of Orleans*
- Blue Claw Boat Tours*
- Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank*
- Captain Linnell House*
- Coastal Engineering Co., Inc.*
- Coughlan Realty*
- The Cove Motel*
- Dan Davis Custom*
- Building & Remodeling*
- Foreign Affairs of Orleans*
- Joe's Bar & Grille*
- Jon R. Fuller Locksmith*
- Hadley Crow Studio*
- Hot Chocolate Sparrow*
- Land Ho!*
- Lower Cape Dental Associates*
- Mid-Cape Home Centers*
- Nauset Beach Club Restaurant*
- Nauset House Inn*
- Orleans Inn*
- Orleans Wine and Spirits*
- The Parsonage Inn*
- Pleasant Bay Antiques, Inc.*
- Ship's Knees Inn*
- Starfish Radiator*
- The Karlson Group*
- at William Raveis Real Estate*
- Thrifty Car Rental*
- Vlacich, Mitchell & Co., P.C.*
- Wilkinson & Associates Real Estate*
- Yankee Accent*

Well, thanks to five hours of donated time by Ed Moxon, we now have a functioning AIS (Automated Information System) on the CG36500!! This allows our boat to be seen on other vessel's screens, and conversely, for us to see other large vessels. Their speed, name, direction of travel, etc shows up on the GPS screen. We have had the hardware (transponder, antenna array, etc) for some years, but it has never worked until today.

So, if you go to visit the Chatham Marconi Maritime Museum, and marvel at the displays, be sure to thank Ed Moxon if he is there. He is a genius at such things, and I am very grateful for his efforts today. If we are underway, we should show up on the website:

www.marinetraffic.com

Links to support the boat, become a member of the OHS or shop for CG36500 swag on the "Keep Us Afloat" page on the popular CG36500.org website!

Thanks to the Cape Cod Five Bank Charitable Foundation Trust for their ongoing website support.


~ Dick Ryder, Coxswain

In Memory

The OHS will miss the following members who have passed;
 Deborah Geithner, Beverly Muto

ORLEANS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5 Bonnie Snow Cemetery Walk 10-11:30am OHS \$	6
7	8	9 Assign 1939 temporary quarters to house Grades 7 and 8 in the "Field House"	10	11	12 	13 Cool Evening Wine Tasting 5-7pm OHS \$
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Celebrate Our Waters
21 Celebrate Our Waters - 3 talks 10am-3:30pm OHS	22	23	24 Boston left the "Fo'castle" in Sep 1927 and returned to his hometown of Quincy	25	26	27 Diary of William Fiske, Seacall Farm A Weekend Trip, Cape Cod September 27, 1929
28	29	30				

October 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 The Great October Gale of 1841 caught most of the fishing fleet and destroyed it.
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Columbus Day	14 Deed from my Honored Mother to me for her part of the pew. Oct 14, 1766	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 2 pounds, 13 shillings, 4 pence to Theophilus Higgins for a lot in Eastham. 6 Oct 1761	24 Russell Young letter from New Bedford Jail, Oct 24, 1839, to his brother Jonathan Young	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	

November 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1  Annual OHS Member's Luncheon Alex Myers - speaker 12-2pm Orleans Inn \$	
2	3 The Cape Magazine November 1967	4	5	6	7	
9	10	11	12	13	14 Captain Harvey Sparrow, of the War of 1812. Born 14 Nov 1795	15 Schooner, N. H. Gould shares purchased and sold Nov 15, 1802
16 Blossoms in Flight: A Celebration in Song Michelle Fiertek, soprano Kaeza Fearn, piano 4pm OHS \$	17	18 Boston Sunday Post, Nov 18, 1934. "Taxi Don't Make Kiss Taste Sweeter" says Bill-Ike	19	20	21	22
23	24 Orleans Neighborhood News, Nov 24, 1939	25	26	27	28 Gloves worn at wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Weston Taylor Nov 28, 1882	29
	30					

* Italicized calendar notations are drawn from OHS archives.

IT'S ALL RELATIVE

Or

Being Occasional Articles Highlighting Interesting Family Tree Revelations
Solomon Linnell Connections Revealed!

In the Summer issue of the Orleans Historical Society Newsletter, Ron Petersen's excellent article about the origins of the Orleans Lifesaving Service mentioned Solomon Linnell and his part in discovering the remains of the wreck of the *Sparrowhawk*, arguably, the first shipwreck recorded on Cape Cod. Solomon Linnell is my fourth cousin, five times removed, and his role in the history of Orleans resonates to this day – for much more than his involvement with the *Sparrowhawk*.

Sometime before November 1807, Solomon (born in 1788 in what was then still Eastham) married Polly Harding. She was born in 1789 in Wellfleet, daughter of Ebenezer Harding and Apphia Rogers. Ebenezer was a descendant of Amaziah Harding, himself born in Eastham in 1671, and who was hanged for murdering his wife in 1734. That is a story for another issue, however.

Solomon and Polly had eight children; their third child and first son was Ebenezer Harding Linnell, born in 1811. It is well known around Orleans that Captain Linnell went on to amass considerable fame and fortune as one of the fastest clipper ship captains of the age. But his legacy to the town was more than just his magnificent sea captain's house that still stands on Skaket Beach Road.

In July 1835, Captain Linnell married Rebecca Crosby, who was reportedly one of the loveliest eligible young ladies in town. Before Ebenezer's tragic death in 1864 in a storm off Brazil, he and Rebecca had seven children: three daughters and four sons. None of sons survived infancy, but their oldest daughter made as good a match in marriage as her mother had.

Helen Crosby Linnell was born in Orleans in 1841, and when she came of age, married Joseph Henry Cummings, two years her senior. An up and coming businessman in town, he bought a dry goods store 1861 near Cedar Pond, which he ran until 1878. In 1873, he was on the committee that replaced the previous town hall – that building is now the Academy Playhouse. Also in that year, he joined with William H. Howes and founded the famous Cummings & Howes pants factory that eventually employed upwards of 200 people. He was involved with many civic and benevolent organizations, and passed that birthright on to his own six children, the second of whom was Henry Knowles Cummings, born in 1865.

What didn't H.K., this great-grandson of Solomon Linnell, do for the town of Orleans? He installed the first telephone system, photographed anything and anyone in town who would stand still long enough for his glass plate camera to record them, continued his father's legacy as an astute local businessman, (not only with the pants factory but with a dry goods store on Main Street), was a founding member of the Orleans Yacht Club, an active member of the Universalist Society, and so on. The list of his accomplishments in and contributions to the town is endless.

However, though he married Theresa Paine in 1888, herself the accomplished and beautiful daughter of a sea captain, when he passed away in 1953, they left no children of their own. The Snow Library, however, has about 750 of the glass plate negatives of the nearly 1000 H. K. took of the town and its people in its archives. They are a remarkable chronicle of Orleans over a century ago, a time when a man like H. K. would be known by all as "Mr. Orleans."

Thanks again to Ron Petersen for laying the foundation for this brief article. Much of the fun of genealogical research is finding previously unknown family connections, and in a small town such as Orleans, those connections can be, as some have put it, more of a family "wreath" than a family tree.

Marie Wells

Membership Chair and Genealogy Specialist

Thank you to our Summer Exhibit Staging Committee

Richard Boonisar, Stasia Croteau, Dianne Greaney, Teresa Lamperti, Fran Lautenberger, Ron Petersen, Richard Ryder, Bonnie Snow, Marie Wells.

Thank you to Summer 2014 Docents

Judy Armstrong, Bob Baumgart, Sue Baumgart, Dorothy Bowmer, Stasia Croteau, Edie Denny, Carolyn Dowd, Dianne Greaney, Fran Hefner, Sally Hoblitzell, Fran Lautenberger, Diane Leonard, Margaret Ostro, Ron Petersen, Hank Schumacher, Caroline Smith, Bonnie Snow, Bill Treene, CY Treene, Christine Twombly, Marie Wells.

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