



## ORLEANS HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

OrleansHistoricalSociety.org  
3 River Road, P.O. Box 353, Orleans, MA 02653  
508-240-1329

*By bringing history and culture to life, the Orleans Historical Society will inspire a shared sense of community and pride in the rich heritage of the Town of Orleans.*

SUMMER 2017

### QUANSET CAMP MEMORIES ABOUND IN NEWLY DONATED COLLECTION

When Mary Hammatt opened her Quanset Sailing Camp for Girls in 1905 with a few tents in the back yard of her South Orleans home, little did she know that she and her family would be making many happy memories for thousands of girls over the next 70 years. These memories still live in a treasure trove of archives and artifacts recently donated to the Orleans Historical Society (OHS) by Alex Hammatt of Harwich.

OHS is looking for volunteers, especially those who attended Quanset or other summer camps in the area, to help sort, catalog and conserve the many photographs, yearbooks, song sheets, and other papers and memorabilia in the collection. If you are interested in volunteering, please email [director@orleanshs.org](mailto:director@orleanshs.org) or call 508-240-1329.



*While sailing was the primary activity, horseback riding was big, too.*

Mary Hammatt was an advocate of active outdoor living and established the camp to provide summer friends for her daughter. Nine campers spent that first year in tents behind (cont. page 4)

### PAMELA FELTUS JOINS OHS AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Pamela Feltus has joined the Orleans Historical Society full-time as Executive Director, bringing more than 20 years of museum membership development, fundraising, governance, collections and exhibit planning experience to her new role.

“The opportunity to help the Historical Society grow and become an even more integral part of the Orleans community is exciting,” Feltus said. “I grew up vacationing here, but now I look forward

to getting to know all parts of the Town, its people, and its history. I hope everyone will feel free to come by the Meetinghouse, say hello, and tell me what they think is important about OHS and Orleans.”

Previously Feltus consulted with various museums in New England, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. Earlier, at the American Alliance of Museums in (cont. page 4)

**NEXT ISSUE: UPDATE ON CAPTAIN LINNELL HOUSE PURCHASE**

## Letter from the Executive Director

### Board of Directors 2017

*Chair*  
*Kathleen McNeil*

*Vice Chair*  
*Jay Stradal*

*Treasurer*  
*John Proctor*

*Secretary*  
*Cristina Harter*

*Alphabetically*  
*Richard Besciak*

*Mark Carron*

*Kenneth Fearn*

*Richard Ryder*

*Bonnie Snow*

*Bobbie Thomsen*

*William Wibel*

**Executive Director**  
*Pamela Feltus*

Summer 2017

I can't believe it's been a month since I've started as Executive Director at the Orleans Historical Society! Time has certainly flown!

For several decades I lived in Washington DC, working with museums that had national scopes and big stories to tell. Homesick, I moved back to New England a year ago and worked with some local historical museums. I was amazed to see the role they played in helping new residents learn about their community, giving them town memories and events to rally around, and showing school children and out-of-towners the soul of the town.

I applied to OHS because I believe strongly in this potential of local historical societies to help shape their communities. I also liked the added twist that Orleans has so many different stories—of those who live and work here year-round, and those of part-time residents and vacationers (like me as a child).

So what does this mean for the OHS? It is going to allow us to expand our exhibits, public programming, collections space, and so much more. But the transformation to a larger organization is beginning mentally and culturally now. The Board and its representatives have been hearing residents' opinions and ideas of what the Historical Society should be and its essential role in preserving the heritage and culture of Orleans.

But we need to hear more from all segments of our town so we can start planning and addressing all needs. We also want to ensure our collections and archives are reflecting the many aspects of town history and experience right up through today.

I'm also restarting the OHS volunteer corps as it is our best link to the community. All talents, abilities, and availability are welcome. We will have more information on our website soon, but if you are interested in helping in any way – whether it is greeting visitors, researching historical questions, organizing collections, or even raking leaves – we need and welcome your help!

The hours at the historical society are Tuesday-Saturday, 10-4. Please drop in to say hello, share some ideas, volunteer your time, or make a donation. We hope to see everyone from Orleans! And if you look at the Historical Society and don't think it is relevant to you, we especially want to meet you!

Sincerely,  
Pamela Feltus

### Board Elects New Officers

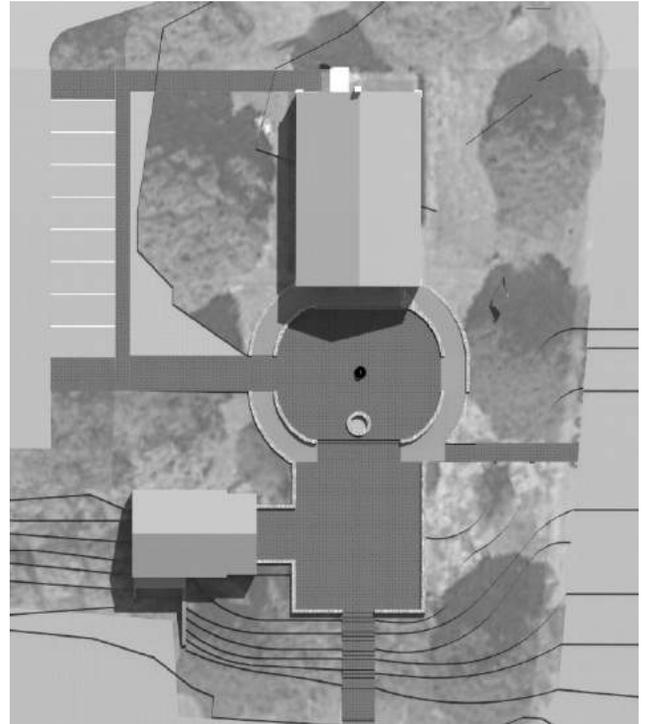
Mark Carron has stepped down as Board Chair in light of his relocation with his wife, Anne, to Arizona. We thank Mark for his vision and many significant contributions to OHS over the years, and look forward to his ongoing involvement as a Board member. As a result, the Board has appointed Kathleen McNeil as interim Chair, Jay Stradal as Vice Chair, and Cristina Harter as Secretary pending elections in November by OHS members at our Annual Meeting. John Proctor will continue as Treasurer. All four officers have been extensively involved in OHS strategic planning, along with other Board members, and will provide the needed continuity to move OHS forward.

**IMPROVEMENTS COMING TO OHS MEETINGHOUSE, HURD CHAPEL**

Work is expected to begin next year on improvements to the OHS Meetinghouse and Hurd Chapel to make them more accessible and usable. As announced in the previous Newsletter, an inspection by a nationally recognized historic preservation consultant resulted in prioritized lists and cost estimates for updates to both buildings. In May the OHS Board agreed to proceed with the most important items on the lists as funds allow.

While the 1834 Meetinghouse is in “excellent condition” according to the consultant, it lacks the modern infrastructure to support larger meetings and events. Among the initial projects are: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant access ramp, entryway and bathrooms; a more functional food delivery space; a “ready room” for guest entertainers or brides; floor repairs; and improvements to emergency lighting, fire alarms, electrical and heating systems. The work will not affect the building’s listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Hurd Chapel, built in the 1930s and later moved from the Orleans Cemetery to a site on OHS property downhill from the Meetinghouse, is currently used for storage. In addition to exterior repairs, plans call for it to be lifted uphill and rotated 90 degrees onto a new foundation with a walk-out basement. Appropriate mechanical systems and bathrooms would be added to support year-round use for youth activities and other



*Aerial drawing shows new “Heritage” site with OHS Meetinghouse, Hurd Chapel and courtyard. River Rd. is to the right, School St. is at the bottom. (Courtesy of AD Architects, Orleans.)*



*Drawing of the new access to OHS Meetinghouse (top, center) and relocated Hurd Chapel (lower left) with courtyard in between. (Courtesy of AD Architects, Orleans)*

community programs. This would require negotiating for the purchase or long-term lease of a smaller part of the Town-owned land adjacent to the current OHS River Road property.

Both the Meetinghouse and Hurd Chapel would face a new brick and stone courtyard that replaces the existing cracked and crumbling slab and stairs. The courtyard, a gathering place for visitors and event guests, will improve public access to both buildings and add to the park-like views from River Road and School Street.

Applications to the Community Preservation Committee for partial funding of these projects are being made, and are expected to be on the fall, 2017 Special Town Meeting warrant for voter approval. Other funding will be included in a future campaign. When completed, OHS special exhibits, smaller events, youth activities and programs will take place at the Meetinghouse or Hurd Chapel.

# ORLEANS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## **ADDITIONS TO HONOR ROLL OF ANNUAL APPEAL DONORS!**

More OHS members, friends and neighbors have responded to our Annual Appeal letter, in addition to the names listed in the previous issue. THANK YOU to all who have helped make our exhibits and programs a success. It's not too late to add your support – contributions may be made online at [OrleansHistoricalSociety.org](http://OrleansHistoricalSociety.org) or by check mailed to P.O. Box 353, Orleans, MA, 02653.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Bardwell  
Robert D. Bardwell, III  
Candice and Robert Barker  
Michael Betlinski  
Dorothy Bowmer  
Melissa Bradley  
Janice Lee Butler Moulton  
Alan Campbell  
Patricia Canavan  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Clapp  
Lynn Conover  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel B. Cox  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Croteau  
Edith D. Denney

Mr. and Mrs. Paul DeRuyter  
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Gail and Ron Harmon  
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John R. Woodford  
Thomas H. Themistos, CPA/PFS  
Ron Victor  
Mark and Carol Zarrow

## **QUANSET CAMP MEMORIES ABOUND**

(continued from p. 1)

the family farmhouse. Later, bunkhouses were added and Hammatt was assisted by her daughter, Alice, and son, Francis. In 1938 Francis (“Poppa”) became the director. In 1966 “Poppa’s” son Bruce and his wife bought Quanset and ran it until it closed in 1976.

In its heyday, the camp each season could support up to 150 girls who came from all over the country. A 1929 yearbook lists 128 campers attending from 15 states (including Colorado, Iowa and Texas) and the Quebec Province of Canada. The yearbook also recounts experiences of some of the campers, such as a 5½-year-old who, upon seeing the surf at Nauset Beach, yelled “Oh, see the ruffles!”

Sailing aboard Sharpies, Baybirds and on the large sailboat Tioga was the major activity. The days were rounded out by other activities such as riding, tennis, drama, swimming, arts and crafts, and archery. Beginning in 1936, Quanset Yacht Club began hosting weekly races among the camps on Pleasant Bay.

Orleans was one of the pioneers in the birth of summer children’s camps. The same year Hammatt founded Quanset, the Rev. Gibson Bell established Portanimitcut Sailing Camp for Boys on the shores of Little Pleasant Bay. They were among the first camps in the country. By the mid-1980s more than 14 camps had existed in the Town.



## **PAMELA FELTUS JOINS OHS**

(continued from p. 1)

Washington, D.C, she counseled approximately 80 museums a year through the accreditation process and advised them on standards, best practices and other operational procedures. She previously worked as a curator, historian and researcher for the National Museum of American Jewish Military History, The Centennial of Flight Commission, The History Factory and the National Air & Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution.

Feltus earned a B.A. degree in history from Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, NY, spent a year abroad at the University of East Anglia in England, and received her M.A. degree in Museum Studies from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

**Upcoming Events: Late Summer 2017**



**Music at the Museum**

Sunday August 13 at 4 p.m.

***The Cavatina Duo***

Join flutest Eugenia Moliner & Bosnian guitarist Denis Azabagic for an afternoon of incredible music. Dedicated soloists and chamber musicians, the Cavatina Duo breaks convention with their combination of instruments, and has been lauded for “style, sympathy and technical aplomb” by *Fanfare Magazine*. The Duo has captivated audiences in major venues and festivals around the world and has performed with orchestras and string quartets in Europe, USA, India, South Korea and Mexico.

**Talks**

*Summer History Talk Series* is still going!

Learn about different aspects of Cape Cod history in air-conditioned comfort. All events begin at 7 p.m at the Meetinghouse.

- August 9      ***Fatal Decision: Edith Covell  
WWI Nurse***  
Terri Arthur, RN
- August 23    ***Cape Cod’s Role in WWII***  
Joe Yuka and Jerry Ellis
- Sept 6        ***Rails to Trails: History of  
Railroads on Cape Cod***  
Jay Stradal

*Check the Events Calendar on our website for details and other events!*



**Movie Nights at  
the OHS Museum  
7 p.m.**

- August 17      ***The Finest Hours***
- August 30     ***Mrs. Miniver***
- Sept 13        ***The Finest Hours***

**Tours**

Bonnie Snow’s popular series of historic **Cemetery Walks and Main St. Walks** continues the following Fridays from 10 a.m.– noon (start at OHS Meetinghouse):

- Aug 18        Main St. Walk - OHS  
to Methodist Church
- Sept 8        Cemetery Walk
- Sept 22       Main St. Walk - OHS  
to Methodist Church

**CG36500 ‘Talk & Tours,’ Souvenir Shed**



Climb aboard the famous CG36500 lifeboat and learn more about its amazing history during volunteer-guided ‘Talk & Tours’ on Saturdays and Sundays, 1 – 3 p.m. Also stop by the CG36500 Souvenir Shed and meet Pattie Hamilton, daughter of Coast Guard coxswain Bernie Webber who was at the helm during the daring *Pendleton* rescue. Shed hours are Thu/Fri 12-2 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.; Sat/Sun, 12-4 p.m. Sponsored by the Orleans Historical Society, owners of the boat, the ‘Talk & Tours’ and shed will continue through Labor Day at Rock Harbor in Orleans.



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### Play Ball!

OHS opened its new Meetinghouse Museum exhibit, “125 Years of Baseball in Orleans,” on July 1. Clockwise from right: 2017 Firebirds team members sign a young fan’s baseball; Orleans Cardinals legend and former major leaguer Tom Yankus speaks with a visitor; some of the Cape Cod Baseball memorabilia on display. The Museum and exhibit are open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., through the summer.

