



ORLEANS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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



Time flies over us, but leaves its shadow behind.
~ Nathaniel Hawthorne

SPRING 2014

Going Fishing Then and Now

Chapter 5, Memoirs of a Cape Codder, The Trip Of A Cape Cod Country Boy To Boston And Back.

By Stephen A. Hopkins

Edited and abridged for this publication.

One of my earliest experiences with fishing had to do with the fish weirs which were located on the sand flats near Skaket Beach, now one of Orleans' most popular bathing areas. These weirs were composed of a ring of netting, approximately six to eight feet high, attached to a circle of poles, the circle being about 150 feet in diameter. These weirs, used in the Thirties, would be in a foot of water at low tide and totally submerged at high tide. All manner of fish would be caught in the weir as the tide went out, stranding them within the netting of the weir. Fishermen then went into the weir, either on foot or in a boat, to net the edible fish caught inside. I have a distinct memory of watching as a very young lad, how those fish were captured from the weir.

There were a wide variety of fish inside the weir when the tide went out, including a few sand sharks. But the one creature that I most remember being in the weir was the very ugly goosefish, now called the "monk" fish. These fish have enormous heads and small narrow tails. One wonders how they are able to propel themselves with those small tails, which incidentally, are now considered a delicacy.

Other early experiences I recall were trips into Cape Cod Bay. My parents were friendly with Everett and Doris Pond, who lived on Rock Harbor Road, near the harbor itself. Everett Pond was a plumber, but he did have a dragger which he ran out of Rock Harbor from time to time, where he would drag for quahogs and sea clams. When I was probably seven years old, my Dad took me along on several trips with Everett Pond in his boat. Everett chugged around, from place to place, putting out the boom of his drag, and dragging it along the bottom here and there for quahogs and sea clams.

Later, when I was maybe age ten, my Dad began

taking me in the small boat he owned into the Town Cove or the Mill Pond where we would bait handlines with pieces of quahog and sea worms and fish for flounder. Flounder, and sometimes fluke, were very plentiful in the Forties and we could easily catch a bucketful of fish in less than an hour's time. We would take them home, clean them, and my mother would coat them with flour and fry them in a pan. Always delicious.



Courtesy of Snow Library H K Cummings Collection

Of course now, with other fish gone, the big rage in fishing is catching bass and blue fish. Although there are still a few draggers berthed in Rock Harbor, there are now countless charter fishing boats going out of Rock Harbor carrying groups intent on catching bass and blues. We have always gone on one of the older charter boats in the Harbor, the *Empress*, operated

by my high school classmate, Stuart Finlay. Stuart, who was a teammate of mine on the baseball team, had been a shop teacher at the High School for many years. Stuart has all the fancy fishing gear for these trips, and we would troll along slowly, with lines out from four rods at all times, seeking bass or blue fish.

The blue fish is oily, but when cooked right, is delicious. I did discover, that the oiliness of the blue fish has advantages in other ways. Back in the 70s I maintained eight or ten lobster traps. I pulled the traps twice a week from my 20-foot Penn Yan.

I recognized at once that the heads would be good, durable bait for my traps. Two days later, I pulled the first trap and there were 10 lobsters in the trap, eight of them large enough to keep. The trap was totally full of lobsters, crawling over one another. The second trap was also full, with about six lobsters as keepers. After that, I used blue fish heads in my traps whenever I could get them. Flounders may be gone, but blue fish just keep coming back year after year. Bass, too, are now very plentiful. And I was told that fluke, a large flat fish with abundant meat, similar in looks to the flounder, are now being caught in Stage Harbor, Chatham. So fishing out in the open waters of the Cape does go on, offering fun, relaxation and tasty dishes.

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--|-----|
| Going Fishing | 1 |
| From the Chair ... | 2 |
| Building, Membership & Collections reports | 3 |
| Supporters, Exhibits, Grants, Robert | 4 |
| Business Members, CG36500... | 5 |
| Upcoming | 6,7 |



Board of Directors 2013

Chair

Mark Carron

Vice-Chair

Beverly Fuller

Treasurer

Alan Keener

Secretary

*Ron Petersen**alphabetically*Landmarks & Historic Sites
Representative from Orleans
Historical Commission*Richard Besciak*

Marketing/Building Committee

Dorothy Bowmer

Video Histories

*Tom Cronin*Buildings & Grounds/
Building Committee*Darwin Cornell*

At-Large/Building Committee

Cheryl Eisner

Music

Kenneth Fearn

Hospitality

OPEN

Master Gardener

Sophia Fuller

Lectures

Phil Marshall

Emeritus

William Quinn

CG36500 Ops Manager

Richard Ryder

Historian/Building Committee

Bonnie Snow

Excursions

Bobbie Thomsen

Membership

Marie Wells

Museum Director

Tamsen Cornell

Immediate Past President

Hank Ritchie

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Someone is going to have to talk to Punxsutawney Phil and explain to him that everyone was looking forward to Spring this year, not another 6 weeks of winter. I think I speak for all of us; we have had enough winter this year – so bring on the warm breezes.

Now on to my report. Your Board of Directors continue to work towards enhancing the role of the Historical Society for our members and the Town. The board felt strongly it was time to revisit our Vision and Mission statement to help guide our growth going forward. I appointed a small group from our board and charged them with reviewing and revising, where appropriate, our Vision and Mission statement.

While that exercise is underway, I want to recognize the excellent work our volunteers do and to express the importance of volunteers to our success. I recently read that 2 out of every 5 volunteers drift away from their non-profit organizations. That is not a trend we, here, at the Historical Society want to occur.

Wikipedia defines Volunteering as follows:

Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity and is intended to promote goodness or improve human quality of life. In return, this activity can produce a feeling of self-worth and respect. There is no financial gain involved for the individual. Volunteering is also renowned for skill development, socialization, and fun. It is also intended to make contacts for possible employment. Many volunteers are specifically trained in the areas they work, such as medicine, education, or emergency. Others serve on an as-needed basis, such as in response to a natural disaster.

The more I immerse myself into the activities of our Historical Society, the more impressed, thankful and grateful I become for the work of our volunteers. However, there is one big problem: we are all aging (maybe Punxsutawney Phil should look at life and give us all 6 more years). That, of course, is reflective of our town and its population – and there is not much Mark Carron or Punxsutawney Phil can do about it, except continue to recruit new (and hopefully younger) members and volunteers.

A big part of my responsibility is to ensure we continue to be a growing organization. To that end, I ask each of you to think about volunteering some of your valuable time to our organization. I know everyone is busy, but an hour here or an hour there will make a huge difference in our organization. So what type of volunteers are we looking for? I am glad you asked! We are always in need of docents to man the Museum when open; volunteers to help when an event is held; volunteers to help keep our records; volunteers to help receive items when donated or volunteers to help change our displays. So my request is simple. If you have a spare hour, please give Tamsen a call at 508-240-1329; I am sure she will welcome your offer and match your skill-set to a need.

We invite all of you to stop in to take a look at our refurbished stage, Darwin and helpers did a terrific job and now the piano looks superb on stage. You can checkout Darwin's update on page 3. Thanks also to Bev Fuller for spear-heading our celebration of the War of 1812, well for Orleans it is 1814 (by the way, she is looking for volunteers). A special thanks to everyone who helped pitch-in during Tamsen's absence, and we are glad to report Tamsen is back and well on her way to recovery.

As always, thanks for allowing me to be your Chairman,
Mark E. Carron, Chairman

ORLEANS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Museum Building Committee—Expansion Plans

As mentioned in earlier newsletters, the Orleans Historical Society has been involved in an expansion assessment for the past year by our Building Committee. This assessment is necessary due to the growth of the Society over the years and our lack of adequate storage space, efficient offices and modern conveniences in the Meeting House. The Building Committee has been carefully reviewing many aspects of this expansion to improve our Museum at the Meeting House, public experiences and to correctly preserve the priceless historical artifacts of Orleans.

To date we have completed a detailed inventory of our collection by Carolyn Dowd. Our Building Committee Members: (Vice Chair) Cheryl Eisner, Bonnie Snow, Dorothy Bowmer, Tim Linkkila and Designer Mark Farber are creating a programming scheme to address our growth within the Meeting House and the surrounding property. The immediate and necessary improvements being considered by the Building Committee include increased storage,

additional work spaces, climate control, hazard protection for targeted historical items and improved accommodations for the public and our small staff in our Museum at the Meeting House.

Finally, with the generous support of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC), we successfully examined our site for a newly engineered septic system designed by Ryder and Wilcox. The testing for this new septic system is already underway along the River Road side of our property.

The Building Committee is committed to carefully preserving the Museum at the Meeting House and continuing to access the needs of the Historical Society during this expansion phase. Please be assured that any changes to this historic Greek Revival landmark will be conservative and we will strongly avoid dramatically impacting the original structure or historic vistas.

Darwin Cornell, Building Committee Chair

2014 Membership Campaign

The 2014 Membership Campaign is about to get underway. Keep your eyes on your mailbox for the arrival of this year's campaign letter and renewal envelope. I urge you to consider upping your membership status, if practical. Operating expenses for the Society never seem to decrease. They're always going in the other direction, and our entire budget is predicated on membership dues. Consider as well urging a friend or two who are not members to join the Society. Our older members are, sadly, fading away, and it is essential to the vitality of the Society that

new members take their place.

Membership in the Orleans Historical Society is one of the great bargains of our time, and your dues help us to continue our mission to collect, preserve, and spread the news about the unique treasure that is the history of the town of Orleans. 2014 promises to be a banner year for activities based at our historic meeting house — be sure to mark your calendars and attend as many of the events as you can. And bring a friend!

Marie Wells, Membership Chair

Recent donations: 2 new laptop computers for Archives and Collection, Marie Wells;

Donating Items

Digital Archive

The OHS accepts donations of historical records, log books, journals and photographs. These can be lent to the Society for digitization and returned, or donated outright. In either case, we need to complete a simple form that gives us permission to use the material or to accept and properly acknowledge your gift.

Physical Items

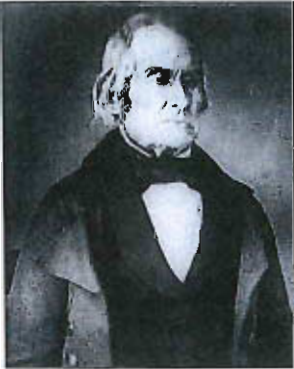
We are always grateful for donation offers and recognize their value to Orleans or period history. However, due to our limited space, we evaluate each item for how it best fits to our collections. To donate an item to the Society, please contact us at 508-240-1329 or contact@orleanshistoricalsociety.org to make arrangements.

Our cover story.

The Trip Of A Cape Cod Country Boy To Boston And Back. 59 stories written by Stephen A. Hopkins who was born in Eastham on Cape Cod and grew up in Orleans where generations of his family have lived continuously since 1640. The first 26 stories describe what it was like growing up on Cape Cod in the late Thirties and through into the early 1950's. There is also a chapter in the book which contains nine stories written by the author's lifelong friend, Sam Sherman, telling about various activities in which he engaged as a boy and several humorous events occurring in those earlier years. The remaining stories in this book describe Hopkins' life experiences after he left Cape Cod, including attending college, his two years in the Army, and more recently, some of his retirement activities. This chronicle presents the interesting trip of a man who spent 36 years as a busy attorney in the bustling courts of Boston, but always recognized the importance of his birthplace, where, as a Cape Cod country boy, his journey began.

ORLEANS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Isaac Snow Called to Muster



The Concord Museum has requested the use of the 1852 daguerreotype of Isaac Snow (1761 - 1855) from our collection. In conjunction with the special exhibition *The Shot Heard Round the World: April 19, 1775*, they will feature a photograph exhibit based on Maureen Taylor's books, *The Last Muster: Images of the Revolutionary War Generation*. The exhibit will show a selection of images curated with a focus on New England's Revolutionary heritage.

Snow was a Revolutionary War Soldier and Privateersman, 1776 – 1783. Captured at sea he escaped from a British prison ship off Lisbon. He walked to Toulon, France and worked passage home with French troops enroute to the US. At sea again, Snow was captured and imprisoned in Old Mill Prison, Plymouth, England for 2 years 1780 - 1783.

Instructor / Militiaman at British landing attempt at Rock Harbor, December 1814, in the War of 1812. Snow was the last surviving Revolutionary War Veteran of Barnstable County, as well as Orleans' oldest citizen March 12, 1855.

FINANCIAL & IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

Agway of Orleans

*Fred J. Brotherton
Charitable Foundation*

By The Sea

Cape Cod Five Bank

Cornell Carpentry & Remodeling

Mark Farber Design

Friends Marketplace

Hess & Helyn Kline Foundation

Nauset Heights Association

Nauset Marine

Nauset Disposal

Orleans Community

Preservation Committee

Orleans Chamber of Commerce

Jonathan J. Page Pianoforte

Pleasant Bay Boat & Spar

Snow's Home and Garden

Stop & Shop

wcpDesign.com

Mark T. Wendell Tea Company

Grant Activity at the Museum

During the Archives Project processing of the Community Preservation Act grants, Archivist Teresa Lamperti discovered additional found items not in the previous project scope. Books, diaries, scrapbooks, and other miscellaneous artifacts, mixed in among the document boxes. In order to properly inventory and assess these found items in our continuing archive project work, the OHS has submitted for a CPA grant to retain the services of Lamperti and help defray the costs to update and digitize.

Targeted archival projects have been supported by the Hess and Helyn Kline Foundation. Ongoing diverse accessions, storage and data entry keep the collection growing and readily accessible.

The Cape Cod Antique Dealers Association has awarded a \$500 grant to have our distinctive ship portrait of the "Phoenix sailing into the Port of Marseilles" professionally cleaned. The OHS is seeking additional funds to complete the project with an historically correct gilt frame. Please contact Tamsen in the Museum office if you wish to contribute to this project.



The Massachusetts Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America has awarded the \$500 Ambassador Grant. To the OHS Battle of Rock Harbor re-enactment committee.

Research using the museum computers is available by appointment. Research registration, reproduction fees, and permission to reproduce forms are all available to download from the Orleanshistoricalsociety.org website homepage. Scheduled research per hour: members \$15/Non-members \$20.

ROBERT'S ROAMINGS

Have you been here? That quail Robert has!

Answer to Robert's autumn location: The Namequoit River. Which is not a river at all but a salt water channel connecting Meeting House Pond to the greater Pleasant Bay. Historically, Orleans packet boats used this landing. Boats travelled the coast south from here, bringing and delivering goods. The landing was convenient to the original town center located at Main Street and Monument Road—until the train arrived in 1865!



ORLEANS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Motor Lifeboat CG 36500 cg36500.org

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

Enjoy the stories, images and more about the CG36500 on the website cg36500.org. Listen to a Bernard Webber interview as he tells the story of the *Pendleton* rescue in his own words in a 30 minute interview recording made by WOCB News c. 1960s with Westid Stone, Gordon Calwell, and Ed Samprini, interviewers.

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

Great reads for CG36500 enthusiasts!

- ◆ *The Finest Hours: The True Story of the U.S. Coast Guard's Most Daring Sea Rescue*, by Michael J. Tougas, Casey Sherman
- ◆ *The Pendleton Disaster Off Cape Cod: The Greatest Small Boat Rescue in Coast Guard History, A True Story*, by Theresa Mitchell Barbo, John Galluzzo and W. Russell Webster
- ◆ *The Life Savers of Cape Cod*, by J. W. Dalton
- ◆ *Shipwrecks Around Cape Cod*, by William P. Quinn
- ◆ *Chatham, the lifeboatmen!* A narrative by a seaman recounting his life in the Coast Guard at Chatham on the southeast corner of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, by Bernard C Webber
- ◆ Many of these books are available in our Museum Shop!

CG36500 hats, burgees, lapel pins and postcards are available for purchase on our website!

Also available are the much sought after 6" **bronze plaques**.

These plaques were made using scrap bronze and copper from the 2009 - 2010 restoration of the CG36500.

Each plaque is numbered and has a certificate of authenticity form the foundry. Available at \$500 each, shipping included.



Call or order online today!

508-240-1329

<http://orleanshistoricalsociety.org/>

Press Gang Crew Call - Get Onboard!

Have a nautical bent and need a creative and helpful outlet? The CG36500 always needs dedicated volunteer crewmembers to help keep her shipshape and in good order. Experience with wooden boats a real plus but willing and interested workers are always welcome.

If you know you have what it takes to become a volunteer crew member of the MLB CG36500 call or email Dick Ryder:
508-774-722-0921, rgryder@comcast.net.

BUSINESS MEMBERS

Agway of Orleans

Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank

Captain Linnell House

Coastal Engineering Co., Inc.

Coughlan Realty

*Dan Davis Custom
Building & Remodeling*

Foreign Affairs of Orleans

Jon R. Fuller Locksmith

Hot Chocolate Sparrow

Land Ho!

Lower Cape Dental Associates

Nauset Beach Club Restaurant

Nory's Cards & Gifts

Orleans Inn

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



ORLEANS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual Member's Reception

Friday, June 27, 5 - 7 pm
OHS Meeting House Museum

Cemetery Walks with Bonnie Snow

Friday, July 11, 10 am
Friday, August 8, 10 am
Friday, September 5, 10 am

Historic Main Street Walks with Bonnie Snow

Friday, June 27, 10 am
Friday, July 25, 10 am
Friday, August 22, 10 am

Talks

Bonnie Snow - Local Bird Carvers
Tue, Jul 15, 7:30 pm

Dick Ryder - Lifesaving Stations
Tue, Jul 22, 7:30 pm

Bill Quinn - Shipwrecks
Tue, Jul 29, 7:30 pm

Bonnie Snow - Battle of Rock Harbor
Tue, Aug 12, 7:30 pm

Len & Jean Tomat School Outreach Programs

4th Grade History Day
Early June—TBA

5th Grade Heritage Day
Mid September - TBA

The Way We Were Exhibit

OES 5th grade creative interpretations exhibit
of their local Orleans history

Saturday, December 6, 12 - 3 pm
Includes holiday displays, Mrs. Claus and refreshments.

Presentations

Andrew Buckley - Hit and Run History

Thursday, February 27, 7:30 pm
A WGBH web series produced by local filmmakers; biographies and shorts tell the stories of the men involved in the *Columbia* Expedition—the first American voyage around the world.

Henry Callan - Antiques Appraisal Show

Saturday, April 19, 1 pm
Love Antiques Road Show? Participate together with other audience members as your antique item is appraised by Cape Cod's very own Callan Fine Antiques of East Sandwich.
1 item per person —\$10 admission

Michael Tougias - Bounty

Saturday, May 17, 3 pm
Acclaimed local author Tougias recounts in his newest book, the story of how the replica ship *Bounty*, and 2 of her 16 crewmembers were lost at sea during Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

Battle of Rock Harbor re-enactment Saturday & Sunday, August 16 & 17

200 year anniversary of the
British attack on Orleans
at the final month of the War of 1812

The Yarmouth Minutemen will stage a Living History encampment on the Village Green from Fri. Aug. 15 through Sun. Aug. 17. The event will include skirmishes between the Minutemen and British re-enactors from Rock Harbor through town where a major skirmish will take place on Eldredge Park.

The re-enactors camp Friday and Saturday nights on the Village Green by the Snow Library will be open to the public.

*This event supported by the Orleans Historical Society,
Orleans Cultural Council and The Massachusetts
Society of the Order of the Founders and
Patriots of America*

ORLEANS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Musical Events

(March-June. Additional dates to be announced.)

Sunday, March 23, 4 pm

Tradewinds: Men's A Capella Quartet in
the barbershop style

Sunday, April 13, 4 pm

Kenneth Fearn, piano: Music of Schubert and Liszt

May (TBA)

Sue Keller, ragtime piano

Tuesday, June 10, 7:30 pm

Cabaret: Sandy and Richard of *YouTube* fame will
present an evening of rollicking song
and general merriment

TAKE HOME A LITTLE HISTORY

On June 7, 2014, the Orleans Historical Society will host its second annual Antiques Show on the grounds of the Meeting House Museum at 3 River Road. Rain or shine, the show will run from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. 30+ vendors are expected to offer quality antiques that will enhance any home or office decor.

Once again Nauset Farms will provide lunch selections for sale on the premises, and an OHS table with home-baked goodies!

Henry Callan Antiques will be joined this year by one or two other antique specialists inside the museum for the \$5 appraisals, and the museum will be open for exhibit viewing.

ORLEANS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Antiques Show

Saturday, June 7, 2014

9:00 am to 3:30 pm (rain or shine)



30+ quality dealers

3 River Road, Orleans, MA 02653

On the way to Nauset Beach

Admission: \$5

18 and under free

\$5 Antique appraisals by Henry Callan Antiques
and other appraisal specialists

Proceeds benefit the Orleans Historical Society

PLEASE

VOLUNTEER

Volunteer Coordinator

All you need is 1 hour per week
and your telephone/email.

Oversee the schedule & reminders
for 2014 summer docents!

Recruit for special events!

We have an easy list of friendly
names to get you started!

Special Events for Children

Summer 2014. Person(s) to program and run
1 hour sessions, geared for kids.

Such as: knot tying, Sailor's Valentines, writing
with a quill pen... *you* name it!

Special Events

Interested in helping every now and then?

We always welcome new faces to assist at talks,
concerts, presentations and more!

Special Event Committees

Have a great idea?

Start or join a planning committee for even just
1 event. Requires a fun concept, a few hours
pre-planning, and a few hours during the event.

**If you would like to be called to help at
an event just let our office know by
calling or emailing!**

508-240-1329 ~ orleanshs@verizon.net

A great way to hear
about events,
announcements and
fun historical tidbits!



follow us on
twitter



ORLEANS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO Box 353
3 River Road
Orleans, MA 02653



NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Orleans, MA 02653
Permit No. 49

Or current resident

We would love you to become a member if you are not already. Simply return the bottom portion of this page with your payment or use our new PayPal service.



MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORLEANS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Name(s) _____

Address _____

Winter address and dates _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Date _____ Amount enclosed _____

A family membership includes two adults in household plus children under 18.

You can now make your payment directly from our website using PayPal.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Dues for the current year

Individual Family

| | | |
|--------------|----------|-------|
| Sponsor | \$25 | \$40 |
| Sustaining | \$50 | \$100 |
| Benefactor | \$100 | \$200 |
| Life | \$500 | |
| Special gift | \$ _____ | |



Clip and mail this portion with your check payable to the Orleans Historical Society.

PO Box 353 Orleans, MA 02653

Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.