

ORLEANS HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
3 River Road  
P.O. Box 353  
Orleans, MA 02653

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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 2015

Postal Patron



## TOWN MEETING VOTES SUPPORT NEXT STEPS IN OHS 'HERITAGE CENTER' PLAN

Voters approved two Town Meeting Articles on May 11 that will enable the Orleans Historical Society (OHS) to take the next steps in its plans for a community historical/cultural heritage center. One Article authorizes negotiations for the long-term lease of Town property needed for the center's expansion, while the other funds a feasibility study involving the possible relocation of historic buildings to that property for additional exhibit and work space.

"We're excited that voters support us in taking these next steps in creating a convenient and historically appropriate heritage center for Orleans residents and visitors," said OHS Board Chair Mark Carron. "Our mission is to help preserve and protect historic buildings, artifacts and archives, but we have run out of space to do that effectively. We envision an expanded setting where current and future items entrusted to our care can be preserved and displayed properly, and where all types of cultural events can be held for the benefit of everyone."

According to Carron, an important part of the heritage center plan is the lease (for up to 99 years) of a portion of the former American Legion property owned by the Town. The property is a parking lot adjacent to the current OHS Meeting House and Hurd Chapel, across from the Orleans Town Hall. We look forward to completing this negotiation with the Board of Selectmen, as authorized by Orleans voters, in the months ahead, Carron said.

Funding from a \$20,000 grant recommended by the Town Community Preservation Committee and approved by voters, will enable OHS to study the feasibility of moving one or more historic buildings to that site. Among those being considered is the 1880 Albert Bassett "yellow" house (currently empty). The relocated and existing buildings, when conveniently clustered together, would provide much needed room for a variety of cultural events and the proper preservation and public display of Orleans historic items well into the future. Volunteer and staff workspace also would be created, Carron added.



Town-owned parking lot next to OHS Meeting House Museum, Main St. & River Rd.

"Meanwhile, enhancements to our centerpiece

1834 Meeting House are already being made, thanks to the support of OHS members and the community," Carron said. "Improvements include updated electrical and septic systems, air conditioning, chairs, and sound equipment. Also, plans are being drawn for an addition to the northwest end of the building that will provide a wheelchair-accessible entrance and restrooms, and storage space. These improvements will make more educational and cultural programs available to the public, and are the first parts of our multi-phase heritage center vision we announced in March," Carron said.

Since 1958 the Orleans Historical Society has been dedicated to preserving the Town's heritage, respecting its past, and making its history and culture available to both residents and visitors. The Society also is a strong advocate for positive change and cultural growth consistent with the Town's history and natural beauty. Its museum and offices are located on the corner of Main Street and River Road.

Please go to [www.OrleansHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.OrleansHistoricalSociety.org) for more information, or call 508-240-1329.

### SPRING MUSIC CONCERTS AT THE MUSEUM

Sunday, June 14, 4:00 pm  
I Musicisti

The Cape Cod chamber trio will present a varied program of works for voice, clarinet and piano by Brahms, Spohr, and Poulenc.

### Talks at the Museum

Tuesdays at 7:30 pm

Check calendar for details or visit [orleanshistoricalsociety.org](http://orleanshistoricalsociety.org)

### Kids at the MUSEUM

Wednesday mornings 9:30 -11:00  
7 STEAM sessions for kids ages 7-14  
Space is limited. Reservations are required.  
[orleanshistoricalsociety.org](http://orleanshistoricalsociety.org) 508-240-1329  
\$10 per session. Purchase all 7 sessions for \$65



### The Girl from Quanset

a musical adventure

Thursdays at 7:30 pm

July 23 & 30 and August 6 & 13



## ORLEANS HISTORICAL SOCIETY Antiques Show on Cape Cod

Saturday, June 6, 2015  
9:00 am to 3:30 pm (rain or shine)



30+ quality dealers

Admission: \$6

\$5 Per person with this ad ~ Students and children free

Enjoy lunch on site :: Museum open

Directions:

3 River Road, Orleans, MA 02653  
508-240-1329 or [www.OrleansHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.OrleansHistoricalSociety.org)

Proceeds benefit the Orleans Historical Society, a non-profit organization.

Chairman's Letter

Board of Directors 2015 Spring 2015

- Chair  
*Mark Carron*
- Vice-Chair  
*Beverly Fuller*
- Treasurer  
*Tish Noyes*
- Secretary  
*Ron Petersen*

alphabetically

- At-Large  
*Page Bates*

- 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  
*Paul deRuyter*

- At-Large/Building Committee  
*Cheryl Eisner*

- Music  
*Kenneth Fearn*

- Hospitality  
*OPEN*

- Gardens  
*Sophia Fuller*

- Membership  
*Kathleen McNeil*

- CG36500 Ops Manager  
*Richard Ryder*

- Historian/Building Committee  
*Bonnie Snow*

- Communications  
*Jay Stradal*

- Excursions  
*Bobbie Thomsen*

- Executive Director  
*Tamsen Cornell*

- Immediate Past President  
*Hank Ritchie*

While Mother Nature was not that kind to New England this past winter, we at the Orleans Historical Society had a very good season. Since our last newsletter, we have been fortunate to have four new volunteers join your Board of Directors, we have been working to strengthen our financial and operating procedures, and we have received a grant through the Community Preservation Committee to help us move ahead with our expansion plans.

First I would like to introduce you to our four new board members:

Patricia (Tish) Noyes, Treasurer: Although Tish's field is Biology and she is an avid birdwatcher and gardener, she also has financial experience and enjoys early American history, archaeology and genealogy. She and her husband live in a circa 1878 home in East Orleans. Kathleen McNeil, Membership chair: Kathleen retired to Orleans after a long, successful career in banking. Using her business skills, Kathleen has jumped in with both feet to learn the Membership software, making it more robust for our anticipated growth in membership. Paul deRuyter, At-Large member: Paul's career began in banking that ultimately led him into the development of Cape Cod real estate, so he will help guide us through our expansion. Paul serves on the Provincetown Monument Museum Board, although he and his wife have re-settled in East Orleans. Page Bates, also an At-Large member: Page is a registered nurse who loves antiques, history and interior decorating. She quickly volunteered to provide our Museum displays with a fresh look, and I invite everyone to stop in and enjoy the exhibits following Page's revitalization efforts. Page and her husband reside in Orleans.

Meanwhile, the board has begun to develop updated Policies and Procedures that more closely align with how the Historical Society functions today. We have created a Finance Committee to help the board better understand our finances and financial needs as we begin our expansion plans. Under Executive Director Tamsen Cornell's leadership, you will note several new programs – in particular, the Children's programs that we hope will engage our members' families at a much earlier age on how important history is to all of us.

If this weren't enough to keep us busy and focused, the Disney movie on the history of the CG36500 *Pendleton* rescue is set to be released early in 2016. While we are attempting to meet most requests for the CG36500 to join events throughout New England, our priority remains with the town of Orleans. The boat will once again be in the 4th of July Parade and we have accepted an invitation by the Orleans Police Department to join its 1946 Chevy Fleet Master Police Cruiser (that was in service, and on location, the night of the 1952 rescue) at its annual Block Party (Wednesday, August 19).

These are busy times at the Historical Society, necessitating more volunteers. So, if you have some free time and wish to preserve Orleans' history -- and be involved with an active organization – please give us a call. We would appreciate one day, one week or one month a year of your time – it doesn't matter; as you can tell, we have a lot going on and can use your expertise and enthusiasm!

I encourage each reader to check our calendar of events (page 5). In particular, we have a number of weekend dates we will be holding educational talks and tours of the CG36500 at Rock Harbor. Please, come join the fun!

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

All events at OHS Meeting House unless stated otherwise.

June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 <b>Antiques Show</b> 3rd Annual 9:00 am—3:30 pm
7	8	9	10 <b>History Day</b> Orleans 4th Grade 8:30 am -2:00 pm	11	12	13
14 <b>I Musicisti Trio</b> Chamber Concert 4:00 pm	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 <b>Robby McQueeney</b> <b>Dune Tramp</b> Talk 7:30 pm	24	25	26 <b>Cemetery Walk</b> Bonnie Snow 10:00 am	27 <b>CG36500</b> Rock Harbor Talk & Tour, 1 and 2 pm
28 <b>CG36500</b> Rock Harbor Talk & Tour, 1 and 2 pm	29	30			26 <b>OHS Members' Reception</b> Join the FUN. 5:00 - 7:00 pm	

July 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 <b>CG36500 in</b> <b>July 4th Parade</b> 10 am
5	6	7 <b>Sarah Johnson</b> <b>Light Keeper's Wife</b> Talk 7:30 pm	8 <b>Sketching</b> Kids at the Museum 9:30-11:00 am	9	10 <b>Main St. Walk</b> Bonnie Snow 10:00 am	11 <b>CG36500</b> Rock Harbor Talk & Tour, 1 and 2 pm
12 <b>CG36500</b> Rock Harbor Talk & Tour, 1 and 2 pm	13	14	15 <b>Arch-kid-ecture</b> Kids at the Museum 9:30-11:00 am	16	17	18 <b>CG36500</b> Rock Harbor Talk & Tour, 1 and 2 pm
19 <b>CG36500</b> Rock Harbor Talk & Tour, 1 and 2 pm	20	21 <b>Katherine Grandjean</b> <b>American Passage</b> Talk 7:30 pm	22 <b>Thaumatrope!</b> Kids at the Museum 9:30-11:00 am	23 <b>The Girl</b> <b>from Quanset</b> Operetta Adventure! 7:30 pm	24 <b>Cemetery Walk</b> Bonnie Snow 10:00 am	25 <b>CG36500</b> Rock Harbor Talk & Tour, 1 and 2 pm
26 <b>CG36500</b> Rock Harbor Talk & Tour, 1 and 2 pm	27	28	29 <b>Scrimshaw</b> Kids at the Museum 9:30-11:00 am	30 <b>The Girl</b> <b>from Quanset</b> Operetta Adventure! 7:30 pm	31	

August 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <b>CG36500</b> Rock Harbor Talk & Tour, 1 and 2 pm
2	3	4 <b>Sean Corcoran</b> <b>NE Fisheries</b> Talk 7:30 pm	5 <b>Stitch in Time</b> Kids at the Museum 9:30-11:00 am	6 <b>The Girl</b> <b>from Quanset</b> Operetta Adventure! 7:30 pm	7 <b>Main St. Walk</b> Bonnie Snow 10:00 am	8
9	10	11	12 <b>Sailor's Knots</b> Kids at the Museum 9:30-11:00 am	13 <b>The Girl</b> <b>from Quanset</b> Operetta Adventure! 7:30 pm	14	15 <b>CG36500</b> Rock Harbor Talk & Tour, 1 and 2 pm
16 <b>CG36500</b> Rock Harbor Talk & Tour, 1 and 2 pm	17	18 <b>Susan Playfair</b> <b>America's Fruit</b> Talk 7:30 pm	19 <b>Paper People</b> Kids at the Museum 9:30-11:00 am	20	21 <b>Cemetery Walk</b> Bonnie Snow 10:00 am	22 <b>CG36500</b> Rock Harbor Talk & Tour, 1 and 2 pm
30 <b>CG36500</b> Rock Harbor Talk & Tour, 1 and 2 pm	23 <b>CG36500</b> Rock Harbor Talk & Tour, 1 and 2 pm	25	26	19 <b>CG36500</b> Orleans Police Block Party 6:30 - 9:30 pm	28	29 <b>CG36500</b> Rock Harbor Talk & Tour, 1 and 2 pm
		31				



See the CG36500 lifeboat  
at Rock Harbor, Orleans!

## TALK & TOUR weekends

*Learn about the famous rescue of  
32 "Pendleton" crewmen, focus of  
"The Finest Hours" Disney film  
(January, 2016 release)*

### SCHEDULE:

1 p.m. and 2 p.m. each day

May 23, 24, 25

June 27, 28

July 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26

August 1, 2, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30

September 5, 6, 7

## CG36500 VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Do you have marketing experience? Like  
boats and history? Want to be  
involved in your community?

**We need you to help organize and promote  
CG36500-related events and activities!**

Please contact Tamsen Cornell, 508-240-1329 or  
[www.OrleansHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.OrleansHistoricalSociety.org)

### Historic CG36500 Lifeboat Needs Life-Saving Repairs

The retired Coast Guard lifeboat CG36500, made famous for its rescue of 32 men from the broken tanker *Pendleton* during a ferocious storm in 1952, needs some life-saving herself. Owned by the non-profit Orleans Historical Society (OHS), the boat has serious wood decay in places along its starboard side above the waterline that will require an estimated \$9,000 in repairs, and your support is essential.



*Photograph by Richard Ryder*

**Please help the Orleans Historical Society make life-saving repairs to the famed CG36500 lifeboat! Your kind donation, of any amount, will be used to help replace decayed wood and keep her ship-shape (repairs estimated to cost \$9,000).**

**See clip-out donation form on next page.**

**For more information, please go to  
[www.OrleansHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.OrleansHistoricalSociety.org)**

“We could pick out pieces of soft wood with our fingers and, in some places, we could see daylight through the planks,” said Dick Ryder, OHS board member and CG36500 coxswain. “When the boat was out of the water earlier this spring for annual maintenance and painting, we made temporary repairs so that she would be safe and seaworthy for the summer. But the rotted wood needs to be replaced come fall.”

Since the rotted planks are made of thick oak and are located on a curved section of the hull, the repairs can’t be made just by volunteers, Ryder explained. It takes a boatyard with the right tools and experience to work on a wooden boat like the CG36500, and there aren’t many left on the Cape that can do that. Fortunately, Pease Boat Works in Chatham can help us.

The 36-foot CG36500 was built in 1946, retired from active Coast Guard service in 1968, and then fell into disrepair. Thirteen years later, OHS acquired the boat and spent thousands of dollars (donated) and hundreds of volunteer hours to fully restore her. Now she proudly visits various New England ports under her own power, where her historic lifesaving role has been told to hundreds of visitors each year. When not on a trip, the boat is docked at Rock Harbor in Orleans over the summer.

For their valor in what has been called “the greatest small boat rescue in Coast Guard history,” the four “Coasties” involved in the *Pendleton* disaster were each awarded the prestigious gold lifesaving medal, and the CG36500 was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.

## “Save the CG36500 Lifeboat” RAFFLE



CG36500 image OHS archives

### All ticket purchasers receive:

- OHS membership or extension



Image courtesy of NewEnglandBoating.com

### Prize winner receives:

- Cruise for 2 on the CG36500 to Boston (Aug. 7)
- Two berths, 2 nights on Lightship *Nantucket* (Aug. 7, 8)
- VIP seats for relighting of *Nantucket* beacon (Aug. 7)
- Attend events at Lightship Museum Festival (Aug. 7-9)
- Return cruise on the CG36500 to Orleans (Aug. 9)

**Only 1 prize! Just 200 tickets to be sold!**

**\$100 per ticket – Drawing on 7/19/15 at 3 pm, Rock Harbor**

Purchase tickets at Orleans Historical Society Meeting House, CG36500 “Talk and Tour” Weekends at Rock Harbor, and at other OHS events. Go to [www.OrleansHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.OrleansHistoricalSociety.org)



**Yes, I want to help repair and save the CG36500!**

My \$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation is enclosed. (Make checks payable to Orleans Historical Society)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address/P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Orleans Historical Society Member? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: Orleans Historical Society, P.O. Box 353, Orleans MA 02653  
OHS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.  
No goods or services were provided in exchange for your generous financial donation.

**THANK YOU!**