

CHEQUAQUET LOG

The Newsletter of the Centerville Historical Museum
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V O L U N T E E R I N G

In December, when Barbara (Barb) Fahrenholz steps down from her four years as President of the Board at the Centerville Historical Museum, she will be relieved of a large responsibility, yet happy that her tenure has been a productive one. When Barb, a newly retired math teacher, became a volunteer at the museum, she thought that her love of history and antiques would be a good fit with what the museum offered. The proof of that has been shown countless times over the years.

When a change in leadership was needed and she was asked to assume the President's role, she proved through the years of her tenure that her quiet yet persuasive manner worked well. The fact that the Board members worked for the good of the museum helped her. When being interviewed for this article, Barb said, "I liked hearing everyone's views come up before the Board and how we tried to resolve things; ...the way the Board pulled together to understand how important it was to resolve issues together." Barb gave an example of the cohesion of Board members when the issue of the museum's deteriorating exterior came up. One of the Board members noted that new shutters and paint were desperately needed but there was no money to do this. A suggestion was made that each Board member contributes to this project. All agreed and sure enough, the funds were provided and new shutters and new paint spruced up the exterior.

The Board, under Barb's guidance, believes in the museum's mission; that the history of Centerville should be preserved and told. Though that mission remains, change is certainly inevitable. There is a desire to bring more young people to see history in tangible objects, not just in books. Old and young, family groups or school classes, all are welcome to hear the stories and enjoy the clothing and objects that filled the lives of early members of this community.

The heart of an institution such as the Centerville Historical Museum is its volunteers and members. From helping out as visitor guides, doing research, finding and putting together new displays, writing grant applications, to organizing and putting on social events, the importance of volunteers cannot be measured. Museum members are vital. As Barb says, "Members of the museum, especially those who live in Centerville, know they help keep the museum open." It is bringing people together, bringing family and friends, because once it is gone, it is gone. Our main way to keep this place open is by fundraising, monetary appeals and events that bring in the public and members. There is a lot of upkeep needed in an old building such as ours. Upkeep is

huge." One of Barb's favorite events is the Harvest Dinner. Both members and public are invited to bring a potluck dish, while the museum provides meat and refreshments. "It's really fun," she notes, "and it brings together the community."

Although Barb's role in the museum will change somewhat following her retirement as President, she will still be involved. She likes doing research for a new exhibit and helping to put it together. She also likes taking part in the events. She credits museum director Randy Hoel with helping her learn to navigate the steps needed to do the tasks. "Randy has been a huge influence in guiding me. It has been a wonderful learning experience and he is a wonderful curator and has a wealth of knowledge."

From generating ideas to planning and executing the many factors that keep Centerville's museum performing well, the one thing that has remained constant, according to Barb, is the people. She believes each person has something to offer, whether volunteer, member or visitor. "Friendships are huge," says Barb. "Each person is different. There is generosity and the willingness to share and listen to each other. That is so important."

Of course, the biggest question to ask is: Will Barb's husband, Johnny, still act as bartender? The answer is a resounding yes. Almost unknown is the fact that John Fahrenholz does so many other small yet important jobs and should be commended for giving his time and energy to the museum's success.

Well done to a successful tenure for those years as President of the Board! And well done to all who work to make this museum live and remember!



E X H I B I T S

A RELIVED TIME AT THE MUSEUM - CENTERVILLE'S LIBRARY

Now through August, the book room next to the schoolroom features a must-see reproduction of Centerville's first public library as it existed in Hallett's Variety Store, beginning in 1868. This exhibit is in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the founding of Centerville's library.

Moses Hallett purchased this establishment from John Case and Ambrose Lewis and re-opened it in 1868 as a variety store. An idea emerged from the Centerville Public Library Association, founded by Eugene Tappan, to utilize part of the variety store as a library location. Eugene Tappan, a local teacher and attorney, and a person who had worked his way through college and law school.



The lending library began with 308 books. Miss Lucy Davis Greer became the first librarian. Miss Greer was a school teacher and a Sunday School teacher until her marriage to Aaron Spooner Crosby, a farmer, justice of the peace, and a state legislator.

Hallett's store, run by Moses and later by his son, Samuel, housed the small but important library for the village until 1877. In amongst the general goods such as tools, children's garments, ladies' hats, shoes, men's handkerchiefs, fresh fruits, food, and kitchen ware, to name a few, there was also ice cream and candy. A shopper, alone or with family, could peruse the many available items and stop at Miss Greer's desk and ask for or reserve a book, too. This novel plan led to a separate town library.

The museum's newest display captures the friendliness and variety of what came before a department store or grocery in a small town and added an additional treat of book lending, much to the town's delight. Today Centerville has its own library and Hallett's Variety Store has evolved into the 1856 Country Store, each recognized for the last 150 years. Come browse the museum's new exhibit and relive the past.



2019 Museum Exhibits are Sponsored by:

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E X H I B I T S

DEADLY AND DECORATIVE - A NEW EXHIBIT



Peter Kastrinelis has a deep respect for military history. His latest accomplishment was to research, find, note and help put together a new rendering of eighteenth and nineteenth century weaponry; the tools of both ceremony and death. Among the museum finds are the sword, the sabre and the cutlass. Then there is the long rifle, the musket, the carbine and the pistol.

Gruesome in what these weapons can do in the midst of battle, yet so interesting and clever in repose, the cunning pieces are laid out in a glass case or on view in wall mounted boxes. The explanation for each weapon is simple and clear.

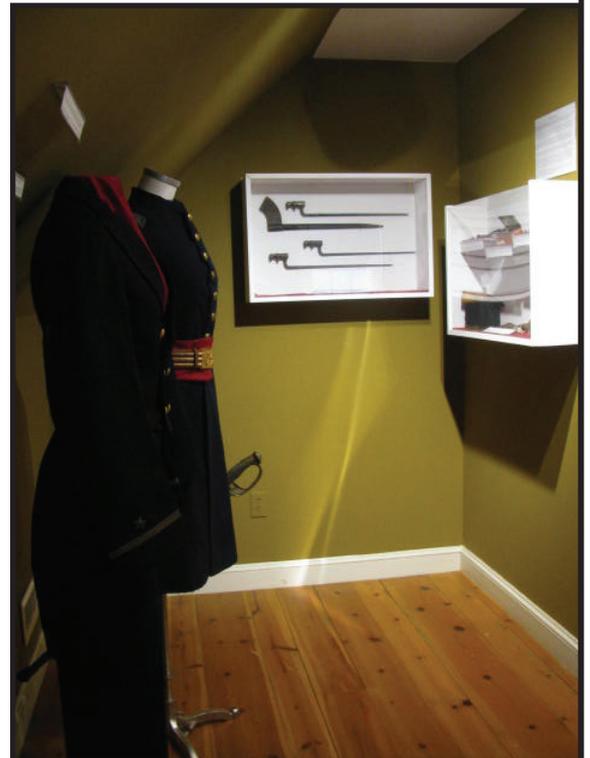
This is a fascinating subject and worth a look: the curved swords, the elaborately decorated ceremonial steel and

brass, the changes in the rifle as the centuries pass. There is a kind of beauty and a feeling in the pit of the stomach, both at the same time.

Then there are the accoutrements. In a wall case are percussion caps which were too small to be picked up from the ground when the battle was pitched. Alongside the caps are powder horns, gunpowder pouches, gun powder flasks, paper and brass cartridges, bullets, musket balls and their molds. Too few of these necessary items are found in weapon displays. They alone are worth the look.

Another case holds bayonets. Tucked into a corner are two uniforms, an 1860 US Naval officer's and an 1863 US Army Lieutenant's. The uniforms are dignified, an insight into military demeanor. Peter Kastrinelis, volunteer, has assembled and most intriguing and excellent presentation.

A special thank you to *Talin Rifle Company of Cape Cod* for their cleaning and refurbishment of the Springfield Rifles, the Paget Carbine, the English pistols and the Moroccan "Nimcha" saber in preparation of this exhibit.



A C T I V I T I E S



ANNUAL YARD SALE Saturday, August 10, 2019, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

The Annual Yard Sale is an important fundraiser for the Centerville Historical Museum and coincides with the celebration of Centerville's Old Home Week. Household goods and kitchen items, tools and hardware, toys and play equipment, books, jewelry, small furniture and a variety of other items will be for sale.

Those wishing to donate appropriate items for the yard sale are asked to deliver them to the museum on Saturday, August 3rd, or Tuesday through Thursday, August 6th, 7th and 8th, between the hours of 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM. So, look around your house, attic and garage for items you want to get rid of, and ask your friends and neighbors to do the same. Please: no clothing, electronics or broken or damaged items.

This is a terrific opportunity to clear out stuff you no longer need and to acquire more things you just can't live without! It's also a great way to support the Centerville Museum.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



**Kickoff at Country & Western Cookout
June 29, 2019**

One time only gifts and incentives

More information to follow

INTERESTING HISTORY

CANDY FROM ITS BEGINNING



The museum's new candy exhibit brought about a question. When did man first taste something sweet and decided that sweetness was enjoyable. After all, the diet long ago was rather basic; meat, a few green things, perhaps fruit, nuts, the chicken or the egg. It could be that various foods were enjoyed where temperatures were warm, cold, or of the seasons.

Opinions may vary as there are no facts, but generally a first enjoyable treat tasted by cavemen was honey from the beehive. The Egyptians, Chinese, Indians, those from the Middle East, and the Greeks, all over the years of time used honey combined with fruit and nuts to make their most tasteful confections; many used these mixtures to settle medical ailments such as digestive troubles. The Olmec Indians of Mexico invented the chocolate drink and the Spaniards brought the first chocolate to Europe.

Eventually, sugar entered the food world. When a way to process sugar was formulated, this commodity became a highly traded commodity. By the Middle Ages, sugar was way too expensive for the poor and considered a delicacy by the wealthy.

Classified as a drug, it remained a cure for diseases and was sold by apothecaries.

By the 17th century, with sugar gaining popular acceptance, England and America ate boiled sweets mixed with fruit and nuts. Caramels and lollipops arrived in the 1700's. The candy industry grew by the mid 1800's, with 380 candy manufacturers in the United States, though the first chocolate factory in America was founded in 1765.

With the discovery of the sugar beet and the introduction of the mechanical age, the candy industry soared. Various flavors were concocted and candy was mass-produced by machine as well as handmade, reaching all of society. Soft candies such as marshmallows and hard candy, lemon drops and peppermints, achieved huge success. The 1851 Prince Albert's Great Exhibition featured boiled sweets, bonbons, chocolate creams, caramels and other delights to visitors.

Cocoa powder was used by 1828 and the first candy bar for the mass market was made by Joseph Fry in 1847. Whitman's packaged chocolates in boxes in 1854 and Valentine candy boxes came on the scene in 1868. Man, woman or child has probably not been without a sweet for long.



Centerville Historical Museum BUSINESS Supporters

We wish to acknowledge our current business members and business sponsors and ask you, our members, to support these businesses that support us.

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