

The Crow's Nest



Newsletter of the Mattapoisett Museum

June 2019 / Issue XXXIV

Preserving the past for the benefit of the future.

Songs and Poems of Mattapoisett

By Jeffrey Miller

Occasionally, in the process of other tasks here at the museum, I come across hidden gems in the collection. Recently, I started collecting some of the poems and songs I stumbled across in our document files. I'm happy to share a selection of my favorites here, and I hope you enjoy them as much as I do!

A SPRING TONIC FOR MATTAPOISETT SENIOR CITIZENS

To the shores of Mattapoisett came King Philip and his tribe
in the year fifteen hundred and four,
And they chopped themselves the very finest campsite ver seen
on the edge of the sandy shore (on the edge of the sandy shore).
Then they dug up lots of quahogs and they did some fishing, too,
and they breathed in all that good ol' salty air,
Others came and liked the place so much, they chose to settle down,
MATTAPOISETT was the town when they were through.

MATTAPOISETT! MATTAPOISETT! WAS A NAME KNOWN TO FAME IN DAYS
OF YORE!
MAY SHE EVER BE SPECIAL TIL THE SUN SHALL RISE TO SET NO MORE!

Oh, those early Mattapoisans were industrious and wise,
they had flounder skins tacked up on every door.
All the summer folk wore whiskers, all the women bustles, too,
population grew more & more (and the Swamp Yankees swore and swore
Now the salt works all have vanished with the whaling boats and crew
and the summer folk are fairly rare today,
but the Mattapoisett Harbor with its sailors and their ships
keep the spirit that we know is here to stay!

Found clipped in a copy of the American bicentennial booklet compiled by Richard Stephen Bunnewith and Gene Pursley in 1976. This copy was owned by William Heuberger. The author is unknown. [Object ID 0400.1.471]



Songs and Poems of Mattapoissett (continued from cover)

THE JUBILEE SONG

MATTAPOISETT, MASS.

My soul delights to journey to a place beside the sea,
Where the Father in his goodness made a home for you and me:
A home of love and beauty in the dear land of the free,
The land of hope and joy.

CHORUS

Hail thee, ever, Mattapoissett!
Fair of climate, Mattapoissett!
Blest thy shores, O Mattapoissett!
God made thee "PLACE OF REST."

The summer time is calling to the land upon the bay.
And the breezes seek to find me, so I cannot stay away:
The sun sets on the harbor and all nature is so gay
My heart must join the Song:

CHORUS

'Tis moonlight from the Herring Weir on to the Ned's Point Light:
Old King Phillip's spring is flowing 'neath the quiet starry night.
The town is sleeping softly under angels' watchful sight;
Such blessings I would share.

CHORUS

My soul must some day journey at the ebbing of the tide,
To the port of many mansions dazzling on the other side:
At evening time a glorious light, and I shall e'er abide
In yonder Place of Rest.

CHORUS

By C. Julian Tuthill

Sung to the tune of "Battle Hymn of the Republic", this song was written by the Rev. C. Julian Tuthill in 1907. It has been included in several town celebrations. This version was printed in the town's 75th anniversary pageant program. [Object ID 0500.1.154]

A MATTAPOISETT SONG.

(Tune, "Fair Harvard.")

Mattapoissett, thy children think ever of thee,
'Though throughout the wide world they may roam,
And wherever their fortune casts for them their lot,
They still look to thee as their home.
If where tropical suns beat down fierce on the deck,
They remember thy cool south-west winds;
Or, on wide western plains, under shadowless skies,
They long for thy murmuring pines.

Thus, afar, their hearts turn to this home of their youth.
To the mem'ry of figures now gone;
They recall, 'though the thought brings a mist to the eye,
All the charms which thy village adorn.
They remember thy shores, thy elm-shaded streets,
Thy river that runs to the sea,
And they wish that the tide which flows in from the bay
Might bear them in joy back to thee.

Mattapoissett, thy children take pride in thy past,
Since the Indian first sought thy strand,
And the settler invaded thy forest's deep growth
And established his hold on the land.
Oh, thy woodsmen have hewn, and thy artisans shaped,
The staunch ships that have slid from thy ways;
And thy captains have sailed into every known sea,
From thy wharves which endure to these days.

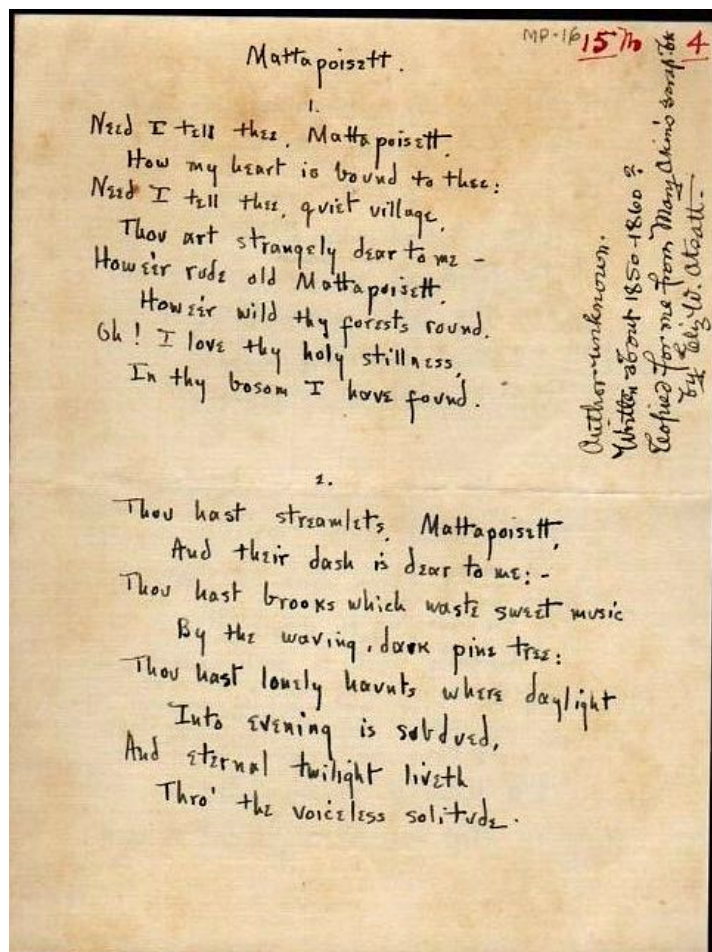
So, whenever thy children may happen to meet,
Whether at home or on far distant sea,
As they think of Lang Syne they will join in a song
To the praise, Mattapoissett, of thee.
And they'll offer the prayer, that in all future time,
Forever, while seasons shall come,
Their children's descendants may ever have this
Place of Rest as their beautiful home.

L. LeB. D.

This song, written by one of the museum's founders, Lemuel LeBaron Dexter, was used during the town's 50th anniversary celebrations. [Object ID 0500.1.118]



Songs and Poems of Mattapoisett (continued)



Author unknown. May have been written around 1850 – 1860. [Object ID 0500.3.314]

*When the sickening stench of quahogs
Comes oozing up the pier wharf
And the dead fish drop in pailfuls
From Linus's Market off
When the scallop shells in dirty piles
Attract the flies for miles and miles
When my heart is by a longing set
To hold my nose in Mattapoisett*

Author unknown. This is a transcription of a (rather unflattering) poem found on a scrap of paper in the late Charles Mendell's files. [Object ID 0000.8.119]

Greeters Wanted!

The Mattapoissett Museum is gearing up for summer 2019. It is going to be an exciting season featuring our invitational art exhibition: *Inspiration: Time & Texture*. An integral part of our summer existence is a lively cohort of Greeter volunteers. We cannot open the museum without Greeters!

What is a Greeter? A Greeter at the Mattapoissett Museum welcomes and orients visitors as they enter the Museum. You need not be specially trained or an expert in Mattapoissett history. However, we will gladly train you if becoming an expert is of interest.

Will you sign up to be a Greeter? The Museum is open in July and August on Fridays and Saturdays (10:00 am - 4:00 pm.) In September we are open only on Fridays. We need Greeters for 3-hour shifts on those days.

Being a Greeter at the Mattapoissett Museum is fun and important. Please join us as a Greeter for summer 2019!



Inspiration: Time & Texture at the Mattapoissett Museum

Our next special exhibit, opening on June 27, is an invitational art exhibit featuring works by local artists, inspired by the collections of the Mattapoissett Museum. Each artist was asked to draw inspiration from an object or aspect of the collection and create a site-specific installation imbued with self-expression. The exhibition is an homage to Mattapoissett's visual culture with reverence for the handmade, as contributors work within their own styles and mediums to express personal, powerful visions of their local connections. This is a unique exhibit that will showcase some of our local talent, so don't miss it!

Mattapoissett Museum

President

Jennifer McIntire

Vice President

Kyle DeCicco-Carey

Secretary

Art Layton

Treasurer

Kathleen Damaskos

Members at Large

Chris Demakis

Carole Clifford

Abigail Field

Katherine Gaudet

Darcy Lee

Jill Sanford

Alison Van Keuren

President Emeritus

Seth Mendell

Director

Jeffrey Miller

Crow's Nest Editor

Mary Beth Morse



Remembering Two Former Board Members: Eloise Ricciardelli and Priscilla Hathaway

By Jennifer McIntire

Eloise Ricciardelli passed away on Monday, April 1, 2019 at the age of 90. Eloise retired from the Museum of Modern Art in New York City and moved to Mattapoissett in the early 90s seeking a little house with lots of land.



Eloise was a fixture on the sidewalks as she did not drive. A regular at the “wind tunnel” (aka Seaport Coffee Shop), she shared coffee and conversation with a dozen other women every day. Eloise’s stories about her travels enlivened the conversation according to Pat Goss.

Eloise led the Mattapoissett Historical Society Exhibit Committee. This group organized seasonal exhibits as well as thoroughly reorganized the Museum’s storage and permanent displays. Eloise, Barbara Easterday and Ruth Cederberg met every Tuesday for seven years (except in July and August.)

Barbara remembers Eloise's approach as democratic. She was clearly the expert, but always listened to others’ perspectives and opinions. “She was a delight to work with,” says Barbara. While they accomplished a tremendous amount of serious work, Barbara also remarked Eloise had a very mischievous side.

Ruth also cherished her time working with Eloise. She remembers Eloise as a very intelligent, deep thinker who was devoted to museum work. Eloise had a very strong personality – she could be very direct. Yet she was always caring and supportive. She would get down to business, but joked around and had fun, too. Ruth remarks, “Our museum friendship led to a very close relationship. Eloise became family.”

She is survived by her brother, Frank King; daughter, Cassandra Babbitt; son, Matthew Ricciardelli; five grandchildren, James, Ian, Hilary, and Fiona Babbitt and Vincent Smith; and two

great-grandchildren Eloise and Clementine Cummer-Babbitt.

Priscilla Alden Hathaway, 87, professional artist, teacher, and environmentalist, passed away April 20, 2019, at her Mattapoissett home after a prolonged illness. Priscilla became interested in Mattapoissett history at an early age while surface hunting for Native American artifacts along the Northwestern shore of Aucoot Cove. Part of her collection of arrowheads and other artifacts are on permanent loan at the Mattapoissett Historical Society.



A life member of the historical society, Priscilla served as its president and a member of its board of directors. She was responsible for having a 1700s loom dismantled in the attic of her father’s home (the Isaac Hiller homestead at Aucoot) and reassembled in the museum. It is on view upstairs in the Carriage House. Priscilla and her husband, Brad, donated a collection of Bark *Wanderer* photographs to the society. Many have now published in our latest book *Voyages of the Wanderer*.

Priscilla led a group who dedicated themselves to researching historic homes in Mattapoissett. Although this work was accomplished for the Mattapoissett Historic Commission (not to be confused with the historical society and museum), the documents and results of their research are preserved in our collection as part of the Mattapoissett Historical Society’s archive.

Priscilla was also instrumental in organizing and participating in the historical society’s Art Show which was staged for many years on the lawn outside the museum during Harbor Days. Many artists displayed and sold their works. Priscilla’s own paintings often sold out on these occasions.



Remembering Two Former Board Members (continued from page 5)

Survivors include her husband Bradford, a daughter Jane, and two sons David and Joshua; sisters Faith Paulsen of Marion, Jean Wist (Walt) of South Carolina, and Dorothy Whittaker (Brendan) of Vermont; a brother-in-law Malcolm R. Hathaway (Patricia) of North Carolina; and many nieces and nephews. She was the sister of the late Elizabeth Roe.

Planned Giving

Planned giving is a way to leave a lasting impact on the Mattapoisett Museum. A planned gift is a charitable contribution that is arranged in the present and allocated at a future date. Commonly donated through a will or trust, planned gifts are most often granted once the donor has passed away.

A planned gift can:

- Ensure your assets support a cause that is important to you,
- Allow you to make a major impact without affecting your finances today,
- Reduce the federal tax burden on your heirs, and
- Preserve your ability to make changes in the future.

Please consider including a charitable contribution to the Mattapoisett Museum in your will or estate plans, a thoughtful and proactive measure to help the museum realize its mission. For over sixty years, donors have entrusted historical documents, photographs, and other artifacts to the museum. Going forward, it is our job to share them, teach others about them, and preserve them for future generations. Your planned gift will provide the resources for our success.

To learn more about making a planned gift, please consult your estate planner. If you have already included the Mattapoisett Museum in your will or estate plans, please let us know. We would be pleased to recognize you in our donor roster.

Curator's Corner

By Jeffrey Miller



We have had a productive off-season here at the museum, and now we are gearing up to get started on summer. Our new exhibit is going to be fantastic, and we have a great lecture series coming up by Seth about Mattapoisett history. We've also been expanding our programs, and so far our concerts have been a big hit. We are in the process of planning a few more for the coming year, so stay tuned for details and make sure to get your tickets early.

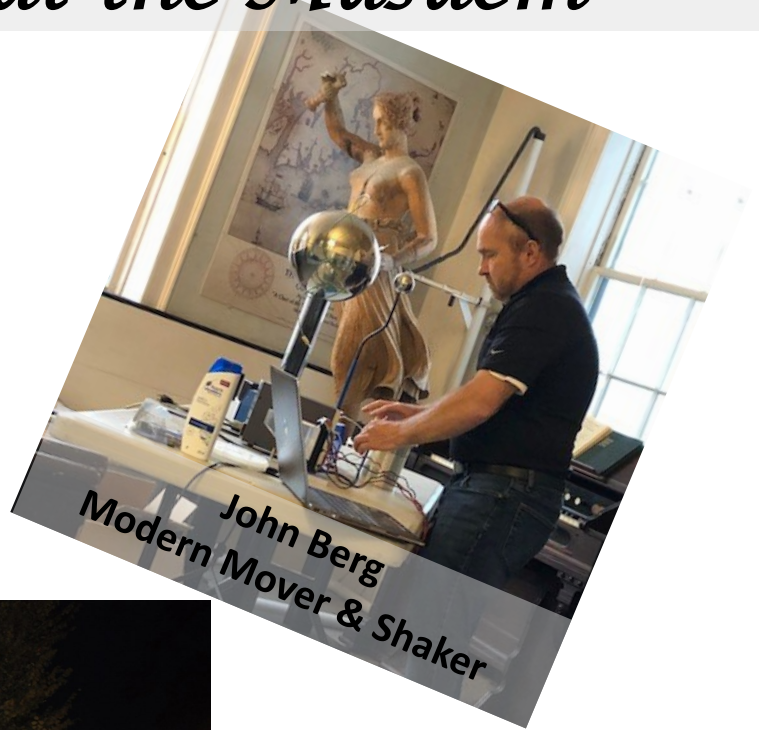
In the past few months we've also been following up on a project that we began teasing last year – changing our name! You may have noticed that we have been gradually introducing 'the Mattapoisett Museum' as our designation. We adopted the new moniker for several reasons. First, we thought Mattapoisett Historical Society was just too much of a mouthful. For example, even our fairly simple email address (info@mattapoisetthistoricalsociety.org) was 38 characters! We feel Mattapoisett Museum is much more straightforward and catchier. Second, we wanted to update our name to match the direction of the organization. We are working to broaden the scope of our offerings, and the 'society' aspect of the name seemed exclusive and restrictive. We want to be just the opposite – open and accessible, with something to offer everybody. Lastly, we want to celebrate and explore all aspects of our local culture – history, yes, but also art and music and food and whatever else makes Mattapoisett unique!



Recent Events at the Musuem



Getting Dressed in 1900



John Berg
Modern Mover & Shaker



Trick or Treating at the Museum



Time and Texture — April Vacation



Isaac Taylor Concert



Rebecca Correia Concert



5 Church Street, Mattapoissett, MA 02739
info@mattapoissettmuseum.org
(508)758-2844

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Rochester, MA
02770
Permit No. 107



MATTAPOISETT MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Members of the Mattapoissett Museum are entitled to:

- Free admission to the museum
- Advanced notice of programs, exhibit openings, and special events
- The museum's biannual newsletter, *The Crow's Nest*, mailed to your home
- A discount on museum store items
- Voting privileges at the Mattapoissett Historical Society's Annual Meeting



Our programs are supported in part by a grant from the Mattapoissett Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



Mattapoissett Museum Summer Calendar

Thursday, June 13

7:00 pm at the Mattapoissett Museum

Jake Hunsinger Live in Mattapoissett Appalachian born and New England raised, Providence based singer-songwriter Jake Hunsinger brings you stories and songs crafted in light of an unsure future in an unsure world. Listen to Jake's music at www.jakehunsinger.bandcamp.com and get your tickets at www.jakehunsingermattapoissett.eventbrite.com.

Thursday, June 27

Open House 5:30 pm at the Mattapoissett Museum

Inspiration: Time & Texture at the Mattapoissett Museum An invitational art exhibit featuring works by local artists, inspired by the collections of the Mattapoissett Museum. The exhibit features site-specific installations imbued with self-expression as an homage to Mattapoissett's visual culture with reverence for the handmade. Come see these original works of sculpture, painting, photography, collage, and more! The museum will be open Fridays and Saturdays (10:00 am - 4:00 pm) July-August, and Fridays (10:00 am - 4:00 pm) in September. For more info go to www.mattapoissettmuseum.org.

Saturday, July 20

2:00 pm at the Mattapoissett Museum

Seth Mendell's Walking Tour of Historic Mattapoissett Learn about historic buildings, the electric rail, the saltworks on Goodspeed Island, the Charles King Mansion at the mouth of the river, and "The Dude Special." Visualize the building of whale ships in the park and how the British attempted to burn the shipyards during the War of 1812. The duration of the walk is approximately one hour and a quarter. Members free; guests \$5.

Tuesday, July 23

7:00 pm at the Mattapoissett Museum

Mattapoissett History I Seth Mendell will speak about early Mattapoissett, including farming, trade, and shipbuilding. Free and open to the public.

Tuesday, July 30

7:00 pm at the Mattapoissett Museum

Mattapoissett History II Seth Mendell will speak about Mattapoissett during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Free and open to the public.

Thursday, August 1

5:30pm at Munro Park, Mattapoissett

The Great Community Picnic Join the Mattapoissett Museum and the Mattapoissett Land Trust for The Great Community Picnic at Munro Preserve in Mattapoissett. We will provide the tables, chairs, tablecloths, cash bar and music. Bring your own food, utensils and plates. Creatively transform your table with flowers, napkins, etc. Tables will be sold for 4 (\$120), 6 (\$180), 8 (\$240) or 10 (\$300) diners. Buy a table and invite your friends or get your friends to pitch-in. It will be a fun and memorable event for the community. Space is limited – buy a table while they last! For tickets, call 508-758-2844.



*Be informed about all
upcoming museum events!*

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Mattapoissett Museum Summer Calendar

Tuesday, August 6

7:00 pm at the Mattapoissett Museum

American Art Explored Jill Sanford offers a way to experience American paintings from colonial times to today. From folk art paintings to surprising realism, then on to modern abstract images — visualize not only America's growth and change, but also America's developing artistic styles through time. Join us for an enjoyable hour of challenging yourself to see in new ways! Visit www.artforyourmind.com for more information. Free and open to the public.

Tuesday, August 13

7:00 pm at the Mattapoissett Museum

Mattapoissett History III Seth Mendell will speak about the whaling industry in Nantucket, New Bedford, and Mattapoissett. Free and open to the public.

Saturday, August 17

2:00 pm at the Mattapoissett Museum

Seth Mendell's Walking Tour of Historic Mattapoissett Learn about historic buildings, the electric rail, the saltworks on Goodspeed Island, the Charles King Mansion at the mouth of the river, and "The Dude Special." Visualize the building of whale ships in the park and how the British attempted to burn the shipyards during the War of 1812. The duration of the walk is approximately one hour and a quarter. Members free; guests \$5.

Tuesday, August 20

7:00 pm at the Mattapoissett Museum

Mattapoissett History IV Seth Mendell will speak about the shipyards of Mattapoissett and Joseph Meigs Esq. Free and open to the public.

Tuesday, August 27

7:00 pm at the Mattapoissett Free Public Library

Mattapoissett History V Seth Mendell will show and discuss a collection of glass lantern slides depicting Mattapoissett circa 1900. Free and open to the public.

Sunday, September 1

5:30 pm at the Mattapoissett Museum

Mattapoissett History VI Seth Mendell will speak about Mattapoissett's separation from Rochester, the California Gold Rush, and the clipper ship era. Free and open to the public.

Saturday, September 7

2:00 pm at the Mattapoissett Museum

Seth Mendell's Walking Tour of Historic Mattapoissett Learn about historic buildings, the electric rail, the saltworks on Goodspeed Island, the Charles King Mansion at the mouth of the river, and "The Dude Special." Visualize the building of whale ships in the park and how the British attempted to burn the shipyards during the War of 1812. The duration of the walk is approximately one hour and a quarter. Members free; guests \$5.

Tuesday, September 10

7:00 pm at the Mattapoissett Museum

Mattapoissett History VII Seth Mendell will speak about the Civil War and the decline of whaling and Mattapoissett shipbuilding. Free and open to the public.