



Friends of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum

Spring 2015 Newsletter

Mission of the Friends:

**To Support the Educational Goals and Programs
of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum**

The Blacksmith Mall . . .

In the 18th and 19th centuries, locally built schooners known as “coasters” sailed up and down the eastern coast of the United States. They traded natural resources and returned with goods that were essential to their communities. The little village of Ogunquit was no exception to this way of life. Dotted along the Ogunquit River were 6 wharves and further up the river were 5 saw and grist mills. Lumber from the mills was frequently loaded on the coasters and delivered to Boston. Fishing and farming also thrived and some families participated in all three trades during various seasons. This was the environment that Theodore Hutchins found when he first settled in Ogunquit.



Joseph Erving Hutchins

In 1940, when Maude Hartwig called Theodore Hutchins an “Ogunquit Pioneer” in the Ogunquit Playhouse program, the business of the Hutchins family, which began as the Village Blacksmith, had already been serving Ogunquit for a hundred years. Theodore Hutchins (1821-1886), was the first generation of the Hutchins family to set up shop as a blacksmith in 1840. According to the Playhouse program, “He made by hand, the shoes

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Members Open House
Saturday, June 6
 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Ogunquit Heritage Museum
Obed's Lane, Ogunquit, Maine
New Exhibits • Refreshments
Museum Opens
Tuesday June 2
Hours: 1-5 Tues-Sat, June-Sept

OGUNQUIT HERITAGE MUSEUM
 SPONSORS
BIZARRE
BAZAAR
 AUGUST 15, 2015 - 10AM-6PM
 OGUNQUIT BAPTIST CHURCH
 SHORE ROAD
 CRAFTS
 FLEA MARKET
 SILENT AUCTION
 REFRESHMENTS
 BAKE SALE
 AND MORE.....
 COME ONE COME ALL

President's Letter . . .

Never has Spring been more welcome than after the horrendous, record-breaking winter of 2015. We are all feeling uplifted by the return



of the robins and the budding of spring bulbs. Fortunately the museum suffered only minor damage when the heat inexplicably shut off and the water in the bathroom froze. One burst toilet tank later...

We welcome the season feeling fresh and alive and bursting with new energy. Carole Lee and her gang have scraped, puttied, and painted all of the exhibit rooms...even the floors!...and are busy creating their magic with exciting new displays.

Meanwhile the Friends are embracing a new endeavor to raise money for the museum. On August 15th we will be hosting the Bizarre Bazaar at the Ogunquit Baptist Church on Shore Road from 10am-6pm. It will be a combination of vendors, crafts, artwork, flea market, lemonade, bake sale, and gifts from local vendors. This will replace the Antique Show as our only major fundraiser of the year so we are hoping for a fun and lucrative day. We hope to see you there...with a baked good for sale!

We have also designed and printed a set of 12 note cards featuring our favorite black and white photos of Ogunquit from the past. They are absolutely GORGEOUS and will be on sale at the museum and the Bazaar for \$15.00/set. You can also call the museum to order them and they will be mailed to you.

My goal for the coming year is to expand the number of visitors who come through our lovely museum as I believe it is grossly underutilized. We are hoping that the new Arts building on Route 1 will attract tourists and we will certainly have a presence there. I have also reached out to

the Wells public school system to sponsor an annual field trip so that every child will have the opportunity to get to the museum at least once. This will be a perfect year to begin this program as one of the exhibits will focus on the old Ogunquit schoolhouse.

As always we are looking for new members to complement the existing Board. The commitment can be as little as one hour per month excluding Jan. and Feb. when we do not meet. Can you spare ten hours per year to bring us some new ideas???

Looking forward to seeing you on June 6th.

—Wendy Broms Levine

Ogunquit Heritage Museum Committee

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*Friends of the
 Ogunquit Heritage Museum
 Spring 2015 Newsletter*

Peter R. Woodbury, *Editor*

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Museum Chair's Report . . .

After the museum closed last summer we hosted two more events. The first was a group discussion which took place on November 16th at the Ogunquit Baptist Church. The topic of this "Do You Remember" event was Perkins Cove. We co-sponsored this event with The Historical Society of Wells & Ogunquit and it was nicely moderated by Sonny Perkins who is active in both organizations. Well over a hundred people attended and many shared their photographs and stories. The second event was the "Christmas by the Sea" open house, which was also well attended and enjoyed by all. It always pleases me to see people that have not been able to make it in during the season stop by and visit.

When the Holiday Season was over the snow began and it seemed like it went on for months. For a while it was impossible to get into the building. This left us, and I think a lot of Ogunquit people, behind in their preparations for the coming summer. After taking down Christmas decorations and returning things that were borrowed, we began cleaning, painting and planning the exhibits for the coming summer. August 14th is the anniversary of V-J Day, so we are exhibiting photographs of many of Ogunquit's World War II veterans. In addition we are featuring The Ogunquit Grammar School, Ye Olde Perkins House, and several other businesses from the 1940s, 50s, and 60s. We are looking forward to opening on June 2nd, and the opening party for The Friends of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum on Saturday, June 6th from 4-6 p.m. Once again we want to thank the Town of Ogunquit, and the Friends of the Museum for their continuing support.

— *Carole Lee Carroll*



Carole Lee Carroll

Accessions...(Cont.)

Lori Larson

- 15 slides of Perkins Cove
- 1 slide of a painting of Perkins Cove

Susan Meffert

- A Booklet of Fine Restaurants (1963)
- A color photograph of Perkins Cove

Louise Tragard

- Maine's Little Book; The Ultimate Survivor* by Sue (Howell) Pollard
- An OMAA Exhibition booklet (1990)
- An American Art Journal
- Two Maine Home Design Magazines (2007)
- An Accents Magazine (2004)
- An Architectural Digest Magazine (1999)
- A Rural Maine book (1972)
- A Winslow Homer exhibit book (1983)
- Taking From the Sea* by Big Jim Cote Translated by The Old York Historical Society (2003)
- Marsden Hartley* by Polly Scribner Ames (1972)
- Assorted articles and booklets from Beverly Hallam
- Four photos from the Portland Museum of Art exhibits (1980s)
- Newspaper articles pertinent to Ogunquit (1980s)
- A Print of Portsmouth Harbor by Ada Williamson

Endowment Contributions . . .

- In Memory of **Adrian Asherman** from Ellen Asherman
- In Honor of **Gary Littlefield** from Diana Abbott
- In Memory of **Terri Littlefield** from Peter & Barbara Woodbury
- In Honor of **Paul LaCharite** from Bruce Shaw
- In Memory of **Marty Fuchs** from Pat & Bob Dateo
- In Memory of **Marty Fuchs** from Jason & Ryna Lipkind
- In Memory of **Marty Fuchs** from Marilyn Eimon
- In Memory of **Perry L. Eimon, PhD** from Marilyn Eimon
- In Honor of John **David Gallagher** & Dr. **John F. Gallagher** from Georgiana Gallagher
- In Honor of **Terri Priest** from Marylin Quint-Rose
- In Memory of **Paul McGowan** from June Adams Johnson
- Endowment contribution from Susan Meffert
- Endowment contribution from Isabel B. Drzewiecki
- Endowment contribution from Nancy Seith
- Endowment contribution from Karen Hadden
- Endowment contribution from Stephen & Mary Ann McMahon
- Endowment contribution from Yolanda Rossi
- Fidelity Charitable grant recommended by Carolyn Moton

Accessions . . .

Judy Clayton

- A Farmers Almanac (1886)
- A Wells 250th Celebration booklet (1903)
- An Ogunquit Baptist Church 100 year celebration booklet (1930)

Blacksmith Mall... (from page 1)

and nails with which he shod the cattle 'round about; he also did the iron work on many of the boats that were built locally, and of course, he tried his hand, part time, at fishing and farming to supplement his income."

Theodore Hutchins was joined by his son, Joseph Erving (1857-1927), and between them they ran the Village Blacksmith Shop for 80 years. The schooners were operating at their peak after the Civil War but by the turn of the century, the railroad became the preferred means of moving goods. Cars, trucks and public transportation soon followed. As a result, when Joseph Erving's son Russell Perkins (1892-1988) joined the business around 1923, he built a garage in the rear of the blacksmith shop and in 1926 he became a Chevrolet dealer. The motto of the family business was "A Century of Friendly Business," and indeed, the Hutchins family enjoyed the profound respect of the people of Ogunquit.

In 1940 Russell P. was joined by his sons Theodore Joseph and Richard T. Together they continued to expand and run the dealership and a full service garage while also delivering fuel oil and firewood to local residents. In addition, they picked up summer visitors and their trunks at the train station in Wells. In 1961, the fifth generation of Hutchins sons, Thomas Theodore, joined his father after having grown up working in the business.



Left to right: Tommy, David, Theodore, and Russell P. Hutchins (1968)

In 1990, the Chevrolet franchise in Ogunquit was closed. Chevrolet was consolidating and the

small dealerships were replaced by those found in more urban areas. By that time David Thomas, seen pictured above, in 1968 as a four-year old, had joined his father and for several years they continued to run the garage and the used car business. Across the years, the Hutchins family has shown a remarkable ability to adapt to changing times, and David's generation has been no exception. David and his mother Betty went on to create The Blacksmith Mall, a multi-dealer antique shop. Given the amount of space they had available, a retail business with 70 dealers, and a large cross-section of American antiques and collectibles, seemed a good idea. And it has been! Both tourists and residents find it difficult to pass there without stopping in to search for a new treasure or two, or just to chat.

Four years ago David's sister Joan Hutchins Bannister started helping out with the business and David's daughters Lindsey, Shelby and Olivia have begun to work in the mall during the summers. Roughly 175 years, and seven generations later, the Hutchins family has survived and prospered while rather uniquely keeping their enterprises in the family.

— Compiled by
Carole Lee Carroll & Susan Meffert

Announcing....
The New FOHM
NOTE CARDS
featuring
Our Favorite Black & White Photos
Of Ogunquit From the Past
A See-Through Packet of Twelve Historic
Views of Ogunquit
To be sold
At Various Events Throughout the Season
Also at the
BIZARRE BAZAAR
August 15, 2015
Price \$15
"They are
ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS!"
Also Available Soon at the Winn House
And by contacting Marsha at
marshanorthrop@gmail.com

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