

The Old Landing

Volume 7, Issue 2

October 2008

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President's Letter...

We are happy that our Antiques Show was a successful one, despite an economy with people tightening their belts. We thank everyone who supported the show, which is our annual fundraiser, especially co-Chairs, Jilline Fearons and Trudy Kingery. We also thank Eastern Bank (and Manager Valerie Nichols) for donating generously to the show as our main corporate sponsor, and Steve Gonsalves of Eden Landscape for designing and building a replica of a former greenhouse (with Acacia trees inside) at Great Hill at the entrance of the show. This year's proceeds will be spent on installing climate controls in our museum to help preserve our collections and on historical education programs in our schools. We have already hosted three third-grade classes from Sippican School in our museum and have donated historical books to the Sippican School library. We are excited about helping to build history programs in local-area schools.

We have also, under Tess Cederholm's guidance, continued with our Oral History Project and recently conducted oral histories of Anne and Galen Stone and Sam Francis. Pete Smith, our Curator, and Kim Teves, our Executive Director, installed our exhibit commemorating 100 years of the Galen Stone family's ownership of Great Hill. We hope that you will all stop by to see it in our museum.

You will soon receive our annual membership solicitation letter; we hope that you will join the Society again this year. As always, we would be delighted to hear from you and welcome any suggestions that you may have.

Kind regards,

Judy Rosbe

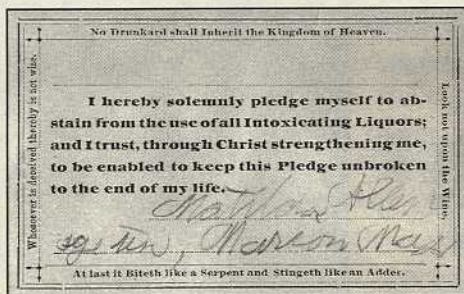
*Treasurer Dick Anderson
with Eastern Bank's Valerie Nichols*



This Just In

The Accessions Log has had quite a bit of use over the summer months, as community members past and present have shown great generosity in donating and lending a wide variety of items of local historical significance. These donations have been complemented by the purchase of several locally relevant art pieces, as well. SHS Curator Pete Smith is extremely pleased with this influx of news artifacts and the ever-expanding window to the past that they provide. SHS extends its thanks for these terrific items, which include:

- Donated by Robert E. Harris, an *American Legion Magazine* article on General Francis Marion, the Revolutionary war hero after whom our town is named
- Donated by Carolyn Clark (of Utah), a diary/work journal of Harper Dayton Delano, a laborer at Great Hill's Marion House Hotel
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Marion Harbor

Far up from the shores of the gull and gale,
The sun's best charms beguiling,
With its forest deep and its pleasure sail,
Lies Marion harbor, smiling.

It is circled round in as joyous bound
As e'er made steel-blue crescent,
In the glow of the morning golden crowned,
It hails the Omnipresent.

Here Summer clasps her fair white hands
And lifts her eyes all glowing,
Beside these sunny, golden sands
Her tresses gently blowing.

From its cedared isle to its farthest reach
Where seaward view discloses
Lighthouse and headland, sanded beach –
Here calm content reposes.

With its ancient town and its regal crest,
And its woodland slope far-reaching,
This earlier wave of the Pilgrim's West
All nature's love is teaching.

Green are its shores, and blue its skies,
And far its forests resting,
That fain would shield their ocean prize
From every storm's contesting.

Seek not for the gems of an Afric sea
When all this wave is gleaming,
And Morning in her majesty
With banners proudly streaming

Rides all this tide! Her golden car
May pass to pomp unending;
But never paled her forehead star
Before such glory blending.

- From the scrapbook of John M. Allen,
a newspaper clipping of the above poem,
written by James Riley in 1893 and originally
published in the *Boston Transcript*

Have a Seat!

On the Board, that is. Due to the recent resignation of Liza Snow, we currently have a position available on our Board of Directors and are looking to our general membership for volunteers. Qualifications for the position are simple: lots of enthusiasm and a little bit of time. Directors are expected to attend bi-monthly Board Meetings, as well as all official SHS functions. Willingness to participate in various SHS endeavors (such as the Antiques Show or the Oral History Project) is appreciated, as well. If interested, please send a note of inquiry to SHS, P.O. Box 541, Marion, MA 02738 or email info@sippicanhistoricalsociety.org.

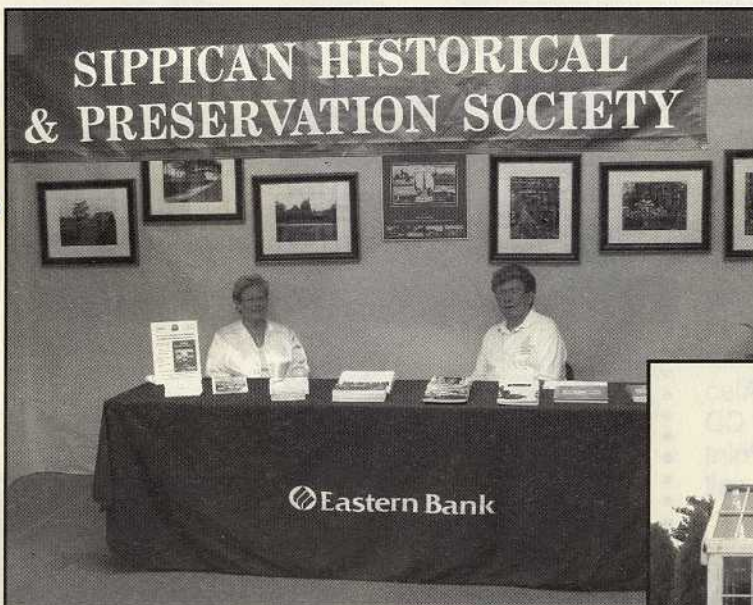
Antiques Show a Great Success

The weekend of August 15 - 17 was a busy one on the Tabor Academy campus, as the 2008 Marion Antiques Show transformed the Fish Athletic Center into a busy marketplace of fine art and vintage objects. Beautifully adorning the entrance to the Fish Center was a brilliant array of hydrangeas, ferns and other lush foliage, setting off the courtyard's main attraction, an homage to the Stone Estate's fabled acacia and orchid greenhouses. Created by Eden Landscapes' Steve Gonsalves, the floral display was a wonderful welcome to the Show, which is the Historical Society's biggest fundraiser of the year.

The weekend began with Friday evening's Preview Party, which drew over 400 people from throughout the South Coast area. Guests dined on delicious fare (very

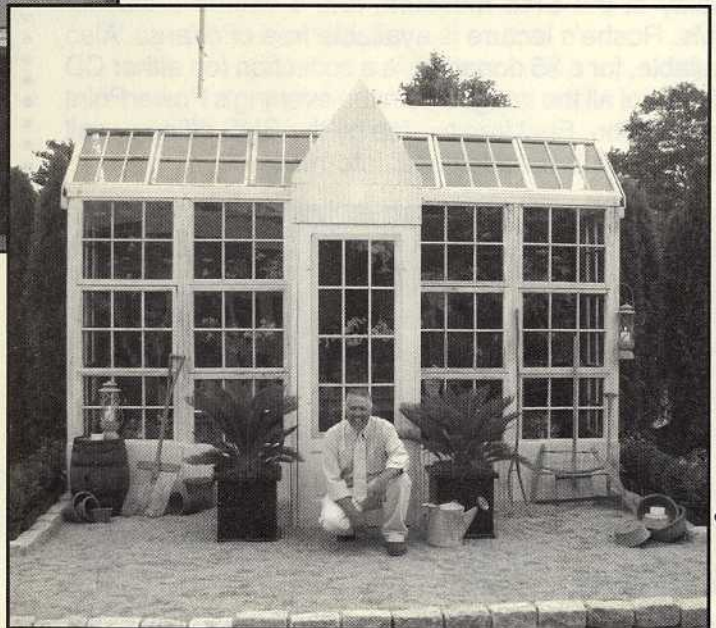
generously donated by local restaurants and vendors) as they perused the offerings of the Show's 65 dealers of fine arts and antiquities. Saturday and Sunday drew large crowds, as well, despite formidable competition from the blue skies and balmy temperatures that beckoned outdoors. In addition to the compelling items displayed by dealers, Show visitors also enjoyed the collection of two dozen vintage Great Hill photos, which were on loan from the SHS Museum for the occasion.

The SHS Board and MAS Committee Chairs are delighted with the success of the 16th annual Antiques Show, and wish to extend their gratitude to the many friends of the Historical Society for their tremendous generosity and support.



Pete Smith and Shirley Reynolds oversee the SHS merchandise sales

Steve Gonsalves with his masterwork



Historical and
vation Society

Annual Meeting: SRO

It was standing room only at St. Gabe's Parish Hall for June 17th's SHS Annual Meeting. After a brief Treasurer's report by Dick Anderson, Board President Judy Rosbe continued with the evening's main event, a narrative and PowerPoint presentation on the Stone Estate at Great Hill. Since its construction began almost a century ago, the vast Estate has held tremendous mystique, largely hidden from view by the iron fence that surrounds the property. Though the scenic road that winds through the Estate has generally been open to pedestrian traffic, allowing a glimpse of the lovely gardens and the buildings' facades, the residential quarters have remained private and the interiors largely unseen.

Ms. Rosbe's presentation took the audience on a visual tour of the grand Estate's exteriors and rarely-seen interiors. The tour included many images garnered from the personal photo albums of the Stone family, as well as other, recently uncovered images of the Estate's construction in 1910 and its award-winning Acacia collection. We were fortunate to have in attendance about a dozen members of the Stone Family, including Galen Stone, who was able to offer personal insights and commentaries on many of the images presented. The evening concluded with a reception honoring the Stone family for its stewardship of the magnificent Great Hill property, and attendees enjoyed a variety of refreshments featuring Great Hill Blue Cheese.

Those who were unable to attend the Annual Meeting are not out of luck, however. A wonderful exhibit featuring 25 of the photos from the presentation is currently on display at the SHS museum, and a written transcript of Ms. Rosbe's lecture is available free of charge. Also available, for a \$5 donation, is a collection (on either CD or DVD) of all the images from the evening's PowerPoint presentation. Feel free to stop by the SHS office or call (508)748-1116 for additional information.

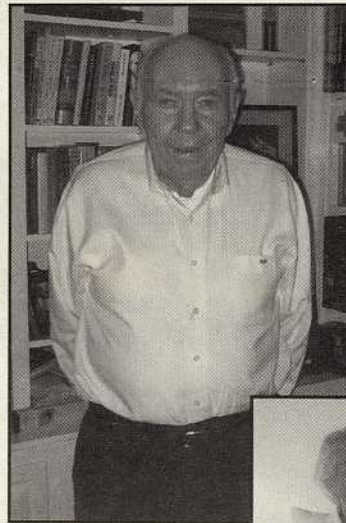


Judy Rosbe and David Stone enjoy the evening's festivities

Oral History Project Seeks Volunteers

The Oral History Project is back in business! Armed with a new DVD camera that brings our recording technology capabilities up-to-date, Judy Rosbe, Tess Cederholm and Steve Grima recently sat down for several interesting and informative interview sessions with the Project's latest subjects: Galen & Anne Stone and Sam Francis. Additional interviews conducted over the past several months include those with Robert Bent, Lou & Louise Secatore, May Johnson, Roger & Nancy Perry and Helen Thacher. A dozen more interviews are scheduled for upcoming months, as well.

Project coordinator Tess Cederholm has been hard at work proof-reading transcripts and indexing interview content, and encourages others to join her in documenting these fascinating life stories. The process is multi-faceted and the volunteer opportunities diverse, though we especially need people for the task of transcription. We welcome suggestions for potential interview subjects, and ask potential Project volunteers to contact either Tess or the SHS office.



Sam Francis



Anne & Galen Stone

Museum Hosts Young Historians

The SHS Museum was bustling with activity in early June as three third-grade classes from Sippican Elementary School stopped by for a visit as part of their end-of-the-year walking tour. Local history is a focus of the third-grade curriculum, and students were especially delighted to see firsthand some of the whaling era artifacts about which they had heard so much. Pete Smith and Judy Rosbe had the pleasure of guiding the enthusiastic classes on their trip through time, and noted that they were both receptive to the information offered and respectful of its significance. Of his bit of time travel, student Tucker Hrasky said, "I thought the scrimshaw was really cool, and I thought that how they found the *Mary Celeste* still sailing with no crew was astounding!"

We were pleased to host these young historians, and look forward to working more with educators and students as we put the proceeds from this year's Marion Antiques Show into action with a variety of local educational initiatives.

The third grade classes of Sarah Goerges and Diane Cook visit the SHS Museum



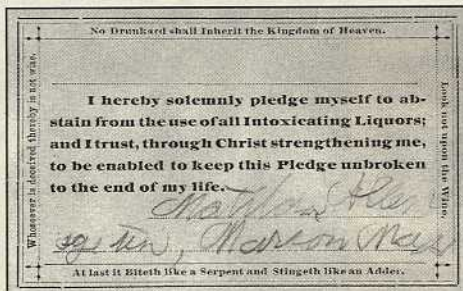
Ten Great Reasons to Visit the SHS Museum this Weekend

- ❖ To pick up a copy of our terrific book, *A Picture Postcard History of Marion, Massachusetts*
- ❖ To get an insider's view of the Stone Estate through the compelling Great Hill photographic collection now on exhibit in our gallery
- ❖ To watch the CBS This Morning video segment on the mystery of the ghost ship *Mary Celeste*, featuring Museum Curator Pete Smith
- ❖ To peruse the wry collection, *Eighty Drawings Including the Weaker Sex: The Story of a Susceptible Bachelor*, by C.D. Gibson
- ❖ To get a wonderful guided tour of the Museum by Dorothea Harris, our very dedicated and knowledgeable docent
- ❖ To enjoy the eight Cecil Clark Davis paintings that grace the walls of the Converse Room
- ❖ To discover the identity of the past 10 recipients of the SHPS Award for Dedicated Service to Marion
- ❖ To examine the intricacy and extraordinary craftsmanship of the scrimshaw items on display in the Maritime Room
- ❖ To donate an item of local historical relevance
- ❖ To become a member of SHS, and support us in our mission to preserve the historic New England seaside village character of Marion

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