



Cohasset Historical Society
106 South Main Street
Cohasset, MA 02025

WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2020

Exhibit at the Pratt Building:
History of the Wilson House and
Maritime Museums
in conjunction with the
Travel Channel program
*The Holzer Files - The Ship Chandler's
Ghost*

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

9:30 am - 1:00 pm
Backroads Symposium
*Myth, Meaning & Memory:
Commemoration on the South Shore
Spire Center in Plymouth*

APRIL 2020

Photography Exhibit at the
Pratt Building - **Cohasset250**

MAY 2020

SATURDAY, MAY 1
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Cohasset Community Garden Club
Plant Sale, Pratt Building



OUR OPEN HOURS

Pratt Building
106 South Main Street
Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Beechwood Meetinghouse and Museum
Open year round by appointment

1810 Captain John Wilson House
mid June until late August
Thursday-Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Ca. 1754 Maritime Museum
Reopens in Summer 2020

Cohasset250 = Events at the Pratt Building that are in conjunction with **Cohasset250**

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HISTORICAL *highlights*

Winter 2020

Cohasset Historical Society Newsletter

The Society is grateful to the following institutions
for their sponsorships.



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From the President

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to the new decade. 2020 has arrived, and on January 1, Cohasset launched the year-long celebration of its sescentennial: 250 years young. This issue of Historical Highlights is about partnering with **Cohasset250**, which includes sponsoring a Historic House Tour on Thursday, June 11.

Joy Schiffmann, the Society's first vice president, is also the Chairman of Cohasset250. Her father, Burt Pratt, was the Chairman of the Bicentennial in 1970. How is that for a historical highlight?

On November 1, 2019, we officially began the 92nd year of the Society, and on Sunday, October 27, we held our annual meeting at Atlantica. A formality required by our bylaws, the meeting's best part was hearing the guest speaker Randy Ormo, great-nephew of Hugo and Edith Kimball Ormo, tell the fascinating story of the Ormo family and the origin of Hugo's Lighthouse, the restaurant now known as Atlantica.

I apologize for the error in the Summer 2019 Historical Highlights: page one - Our Current Exhibit text should have been August Petersen, not Oscar Petersen.

Warm regards,

Kathy
Kathleen L. O'Malley



Cohasset250 Events

APRIL 2020

Photography Exhibit at the
Pratt Building

SATURDAY, MAY 2

9:30 a.m. Cohasset Ice Cream Tasting
Cohasset250 tent on the lawn of
Barnes Field on North Main Street

SATURDAY, MAY 2

Town Founding Play Re-Enactment
Cohasset Town Hall Auditorium

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

Cohasset Historical Society House Tour

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

Beechwood Family Lawn Party
Beechwood Ball Field

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

Cohasset Garden Club Exhibit
at the Pratt Building

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JULY 24-26

Celebration Weekend
at Sandy Beach, Cohasset Common and
Cohasset Harbor

SATURDAY, JULY 25

8:30 am **Cohasset250** Parade
begins at South Shore Music Circus
parking lot

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

Fireman's Muster and BBQ Cook-off
Milliken Field

cohasset250.com/events



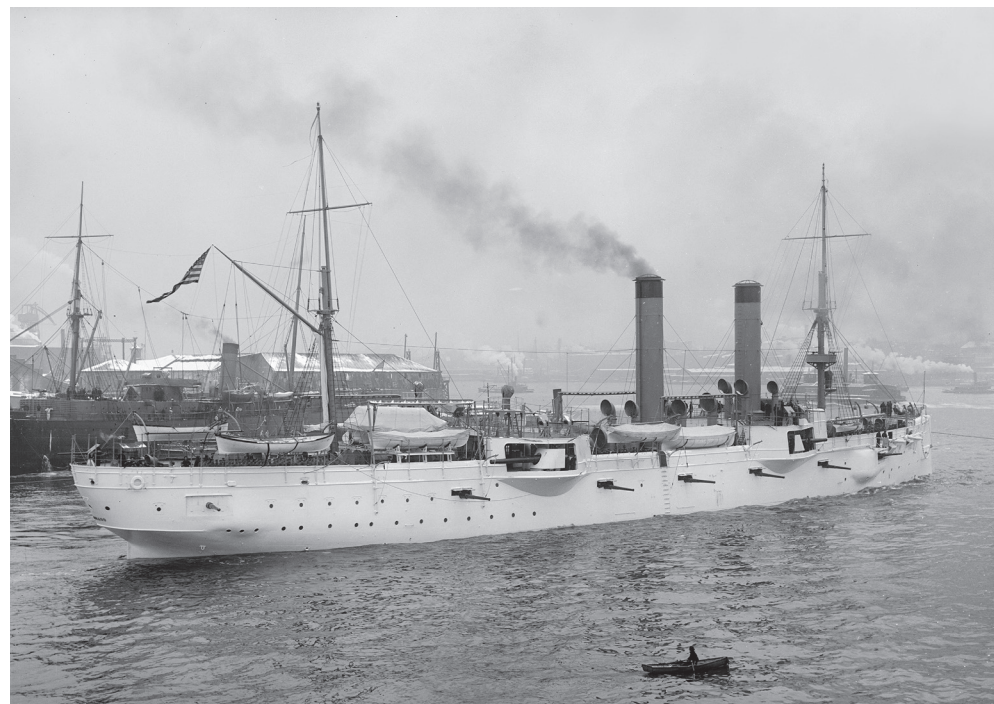
DIARY SERIES - FRANCE 1918 by Margaret Hall (1876-1963)



This is the third installment of Margaret Hall's "diary," a compilation of letters, diary entries and extraordinary photographs that document her year on the western front in France in 1918. (Punctuation, capitalization, and spelling are as they appear in the diary.)

At 11 P.M. taps are sounded and we are supposed to keep quiet; some don't, though. It's impossible to stay below after the air is shut out. So almost

everyone spends twenty-four hours on deck. I wish you could see me turning out for the night. I take off my uniform, put on my lavender kimono and bedroom slippers, and either a sweater or a heavy coat; carry the big pillow off my bed, my little pillow and rug in one hand, and my life preserver, which we are ordered to keep within reach, in the other. I stumble up the stairs and have an awful time opening the door. Then my gropings begin, for the deck is pitchy black, and my chair is almost down at the other end of the ship. I have counted the lifeboats which I have to pass, for they can generally be seen against the sky. Then to find the passage into the back row where I am, I turn at right angles and walk forward until I bump something and am sent "a little farther down," not knowing how much. I repeat the performance after a few steps, and another cheerful voice tells me to go still farther; and perhaps even the number of chairs to pass before reaching the passage; but that doesn't help a great deal, because I can see nothing. You can't imagine the relief when someone takes your arm and says, "Here it is, two steps away," and politely shoves you towards your row. The marvel is that all the voices are so polite, for it is more than likely I have waked everyone up. Half the time, too, I lose my balance, and either my pillow or life preserver lands on top of them. After I have reached the end of the passage, my real trouble



USS "Chicago", 1891 – Alex Colors Studio

begins, for my chair is the seventh or eighth in, and the space between the rows is scarcely wide enough for one to walk in when unencumbered. I plunge on, however, stumbling against the people on the outside row, and on the rebound onto those on the inside. I never escape putting my hand on someone's face; oftener than not it lands in the mouth. When I finally reach the place where my chair ought to be, I begin to investigate each chair; if a rug is there already, it probably does not belong to me, but it may, so I have to examine to see if someone is under the rug. By this time I am in a state of hand-wringing, if I had any hands I could wring, and at the height of my despair some unknown man becomes discouraged by the rumpus, gets up and settles me out of self-defense. One night it was too much even for him, so he told me to go out to a vacant chair in the front row, where he fixed me up with a second chair for my feet, so that I could lie down as flat as it is possible in a chair with a hump in it. One awful night I settled myself in the wrong chair; a long distance from mine. I was almost asleep when I noticed that my neighbors did not seem familiar. Fearing that the owner might turn up, I thought I'd better get out. I had made a terrible commotion getting in, and I felt like a fool bundling out again, but I sneaked off as quietly as possible with all my luggage, and finally found my own place.

I have been using the face of my wrist watch for a headlight on deck and it works quite well when I put my arm across my chest, but that is forbidden. I discovered one evening. A commanding voice from out of the blackness ordered 'that light out,' so there will be more collisions for me. I already have a skinned nose; another girl has broken hers more or less.

When the wind is blowing and the water dashing up on the deck, you rather hope that if you have to get out in a hurry, it won't be that night. During the very hot weather in the Gulf Stream it would have been rather nice at times to have been nearer the water. No one seems to be the least nervous. The Captain almost never appears. However, I think he feels pretty safe for the moment. Dusk and dawn are the favorite times for the submarine attacks, but most of us go below at dawn. Some mornings I have been caught in the deck-swabbing process and have to hop up on the nearest unoccupied chair, to escape the tidal wave which dashes down the deck.

In the next installment, Hall continues to describe her fellow passengers and what daily life is like on board the USS Chicago.

Looking Back at Cohasset Happenings of Note Bicentennial (1970) to Sestercentennial (2020)

Town Flag

Cohasset's town flag was designed for the Bicentennial celebration in 1970. It shows the town seal: a depiction of Minot's Ledge Lighthouse, Town Hall, First Parish Meeting House, Osgood School, Whitehead, and two fishing schooners, along with the founding date of the town - 1770, and two anchors connected by a rope.



Captain Steve Bowen, former resident and graduate of Cohasset High School, Class of 1982, carried a town flag on board the Space shuttle Atlantis during a mission to deliver a research module to the International Space Station. That flag is now displayed in the Town Hall.

1959-2007 Old Colony to Greenbush

The first train line began in Cohasset in 1849. The Duxbury and Cohasset Railroad combined with the South Shore Railroad in 1877 and became known as the Old Colony Railroad. There were four stations in Cohasset, but none of them were at the current station's location. Ridership began to dwindle after World War II. All trains officially stopped in 1959. Renewed interest in a train line running through the South Shore began in 1980, culminating in the re-installation of the train line in Cohasset in 2007.

1968 - Black Rock House Demolished

The Black Rock House was a romantic seaside hotel located in North Cohasset. It was known for its commanding ocean views, orchestra, dancing, sea bathing, horseback riding, and excellent cuisine. In its heyday, stars and writers like Peggy Wood and Thornton Wilder flocked there during the summer months.



As grand hotels fell out of fashion, the Black Rock House fell into disrepair and was eventually demolished in 1968.



1970 - Music Circus schedule

THE STAR FILLED 20TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON	
<p>JUNE 29 THRU JULY 4 JOHN GAVIN in <i>The Fantasticks</i> America's Longest Running Musical</p>	<p>SUNDAY, JULY 12/8:00 P.M. The Original PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND</p>
<p>JULY 6 THRU 11 MICKEY ROONEY in <i>GEORGE M!</i> The Yankee Doodle Dandy Musical</p>	<p>SUNDAY, JULY 19/8:00 P.M. IAN and SYLVIA and the <i>GREAT SPECKLED BIRD</i></p>
<p>JULY 13 THRU 18 LAURENCE GUITTARD recreates his Broadway role in <i>Man of La Mancha</i> "THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM"</p>	<p>SUNDAY, JULY 26 8:00 P.M. RICHE HAVENS</p>
<p>JULY 20 THRU 25 PRIOR TO BROADWAY JAMES WHITMORE in <i>CHIC LIFE</i> a hilarious new comedy by the authors of the hit THE IMPOSSIBLE YEARS</p>	<p>SUNDAY, AUGUST 2/8:00 P.M. THE CLANCY BROTHERS</p>
<p>JULY 27 THRU AUGUST 1 ANNA MARIA ALBERGHETTI in <i>CABARET</i> The Award-Winning Musical</p>	<p>SUNDAY, AUGUST 9/3:00 P.M. THE COWSILLS</p>
<p>AUGUST 10 THRU 15 EDIE ADAMS JACK CASSIDY in <i>I DO! I DO!</i> The Musical Comedy Delight</p>	<p>SUNDAY, AUGUST 16 8:00 P.M. TOM RUSH</p>
<p>AUGUST 17 THRU 22 DENISE PINKY DARCEL LEE in <i>LAS VEGAS FOLLIES '70</i> The Fast, Lavish, and Fulfilled Revue</p>	<p>SUNDAY, AUGUST 23 8:00 P.M. TINY TIM and The <i>Enchanted Forest</i></p>
<p>AUGUST 24 THRU 29 RETURN ENGAGEMENT LAURENCE GUITTARD in <i>Man of La Mancha</i> "THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM"</p>	<p>SUNDAY, AUGUST 30/8:00 P.M. THE GLENN MILLER BAND under the direction of BUDDY DE FRANCO</p>
<p>AUGUST 31 THRU SEPTEMBER 5 NOEL HARRISON in The Tuneful Musical <i>"Where's Charley?"</i></p>	<p>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6/8:00 P.M. PHIL FORD & MIMI HINES In an Evening of <i>COMEDY and MUSIC</i></p>

1970 vs. 2020

Population:	6,954 / 8,541
Minimum Wage:	\$1.60 per hour / \$12 per hour
Births:	99 / 86*
Marriages:	93 / 23*

*2018 Town Report

