

THE GEORGETOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Preserving and promoting the history of Georgetown

Summer 2019 Newsletter

LAKE MONSTERS AND SEA SERPENTS!

You have probably heard stories of the famous Loch Ness monster, but did you know that there have been similar creature sightings in and near Georgetown? Here are a few, excerpted from our local newspaper, The Georgetown Advocate:

July 28, 1880 A monster marine animal, supposed to be a sea-serpent, was seen in the Essex River on Wednesday afternoon by Capt. Geo. C. Burnham and Capt. Marks of Cross Island and others, while sailing up the river. The head was under water, and they saw at least 100 feet of his body, which was as large as a barrel. It went off into Ipswich bay. There is no

mistake, as the parties are of veracity, and the men all affirm the same statement. Mr. S. H. Wadleigh affirms with great pertinacity that several years ago he saw a sea serpent in Baldpate Pond, and can give a good description of it. The neighborhood was greatly excited at the time, and people living on the Boxford poor farm claim to have seen his track on shore.

Six Georgetown men, Alvah B. Chase, Alfred A. Howe, Isaac C. Perley, Joseph. H. Scates, Albert B. Comins and Edward A. Merrill, shared an amazing story in the **June 28, 1884** Georgetown Advocate, which was reprinted in many prominent Massachusetts newspapers and featured on the front page of the New York Sun:

On the afternoon of June 17th, at about 4:20 o'clock, while coming from McKenney's Wharf on Grape Island, and steering on a direct course from the same to Nelson's cut on Hog Island, with a fair wind blowing fresh, a boat load of six young men saw at a distance, variously estimated at from ten to sixty rods, an object in the water which they first thought to be seals chasing each other. Further observation proved one to be a large seal swimming with all his might and once at least jumping his full size out of the water. The animal chasing swam with great speed with head and about three feet out of water. The head was larger than that of the largest seal, there was no narrow neck, but the body increased in size until the water hid the remainder. Behind this for about fifty or sixty feet, there was a wake as distinguishable as that made by a tug boat. At one time, at a distance of about thirty feet from the head, a fold of his body was seen above the water, so that daylight could be seen under it. The wake behind made it appear to be in about the centre of the length of the animal. It was round and larger than at the neck and head. The color was black, but a narrow white stripe seemed to run down the throat. The motions of the monster beneath the water, judged by the movements of wake and loop in the centre, was serpentine and rapid. The seal appeared to be in great distress and swam for shoal water. The serpent followed, and when on the flats with perhaps four or six feet of water under him, made a tremendous splashing. He soon turned into the deeper water of the channel, veered off toward Swallow-bank, and was last seen making towards Cape Merrill. To say that the young men were scared and did not care to follow the beast, is stating the matter just as it is. Every man in the boat saw it, they all agree that it was as stated, saw it going from them, make a turn and describe a circle, saw the seal swim and jump for his life,



Engraving of Sea Serpent seen in Gloucester Harbor in 1817

and all are satisfied that it was a monster of the snake species not less than 50 feet long. They are sober, reliable, sedate young men, not disguised by drink, not credulous nor easily excited, and did not see some little thing and imagine the rest. It was broad day light, with no mirage or fog to exaggerate objects.

July, 1886 While fishing in Rock Pond one day this week, W. A. Butler Esq., and Mr. S. J. Palmer the Jeweler, saw the head of a curious animal rise from the water. It had eyes as large as a seal, in a head resembling that of a snake, but six inches wide. It disappeared as suddenly as it arose and left a large wake behind.

August, 1886 Among the new converts to the Sea Serpent reality is Mr. John M. Poor, of Haverhill, who saw his immensity at Plum Island this week, only a few hundred feet away. He describes the animal as have those who have testified before. Years ago Hon. S. Osgood, then a sailor, together with his whole ship's company, had a full view of the monster, and was convinced of the reality.

GEORGETOWN REMEMBERED

By Andrew LeBlanc

Do you remember any of the small stores and ice cream stands that were around town years ago? Some I remember; some I think I remember. If you see something that isn't as you remember, please let me know and I will adjust my memory.

Kelloway's... Al Kelloway ran a variety store and gas station on Central Street (now Stewart's Garage). I remember as a kid it was always busy. Al had a reputation of being a good guy. A lot of folks did business there. Not sure when Al closed shop, but he was there a long time.

Perkins' Variety Store, 63 Thurlow Street... Perkins' had the usual bread, milk and candy. The building was right next to the street, kind of built into the banking in front of the house. I think the store began as a gun shop. As a kid I never understood the bars on the windows, but the gun store must have been the reason. I don't know when either the gun store or the variety store came and went, but the variety store was there in the mid-50s when my sister and I would go there for candy.



Corner Cupboard (pictured left)... Located on the corner of Pentucket Avenue and West Main Street, the store was owned and run by the Campbell family who lived in the house behind it. I don't know an opening or closing date but it was there in the mid-50s.

O'Brian's Sub Shop on West Main Street... O'Brian's shop was a small building, almost like a shed, located to the left of the (former) Corner Cupboard. I think by the time it was there the Corner Cupboard had been torn down. O'Brian's was there only a short time in the late 50s and early 60s.

Boardman's Grocery Store (pictured right) on Central Street in south Georgetown... It was kind of diagonally across from Nunan's. It came and went before my time. The building had been converted to a house and I believe it was there through the 60s.



Johnny Raymond's Ice Cream was at 41 Warren Street. I can only remember the building. I spoke with Clair Raymond, and to the best of her knowledge, the stand opened in the teens and closed before the war.

Here's another one where I can only remember the building. It was at the corner of East Main Street and Tenney Street. They sold ice cream and pumped gas. My grandfather was born and lived in a house behind the store. He told me the building was originally a small shoe shop located further back on the property and was moved closer to the street to become a store. Bob Page told me his sister Harriet (Page) Kneeland worked in the store as a teenager selling ice cream and pumping gas. Later it was moved up next to the barn and converted into a two-car garage.

Riverside Dairy Ice Cream was on the corner of West Main and Moulton Street (where the Best Bagel is now). I believe it was built in the late 40s or maybe the early 50s. At some point in the early 50s it became Curriers Ice Cream. The Currier brothers owned Riverside Dairy. When the current new

building was built the old ice cream stand was moved across the street behind Strogney's Garage (now Richdale). I think when Richdale came in, the old building was demolished.

Cozy Corner was on the corner of North Street and Thurlow Street. It was owned and operated by the Hill family that lived in the house behind it. Fanny Hill ran it. They sold ice cream, gas, and had a small luncheon counter. The building had a portico that you would drive under to get gas. I don't know when it opened or closed but the building was there into at least the 60s.

There was an ice cream stand on the corner of Andover Street and Lake Shore Drive, in the mid-50s. The building was originally Doris Marston Real Estate. She was selling camp lots on Lake Mohawk, (Rock Pond). The ice cream stand only lasted a season or two. The building was later converted into a residence.

The Snack Shop on Library Street... I think Al Jenny built it in the mid-50s where the NAPA store is now. Access was from Library Street, not East Main Street like the NAPA store. There were a few booths and a counter; they sold ice cream and sandwiches. Later it became the Elms.

That's it for now. If you have any Georgetown memories please share them with us so that we can share them with others.

Thanks go to—Peter Whitney, Dave Morse, Bob Page, George Tolman, Clair Raymond, Dick Tidd, Carl Searl and David Tidd for dusting off some old memories. Thank you also to Dan Meader for the use of the photos that appear with this article.

To comment on these memories or add some of your own, contact: Andy LeBlanc at 508-633-2161 or Joe Corcoran at 978-352-3169.

BROCKLEBANK MUSEUM NOW OPEN

The Brocklebank Museum is now open for the season and will be open every Sunday through Columbus Day weekend from 2-5 p.m. and other days and times by appointment. Admission is always free to current GHS members.

If you are interested in local history and enjoy meeting and talking to people, you should consider becoming a Brocklebank Museum docent! It is a fun and easy job—no memorization or wearing of costumes is required. You get to choose the Sundays you wish to work. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact GHS by e-mailing us at: georgetownhistoricalsociety@aol.com.



SAVE THE DATE!

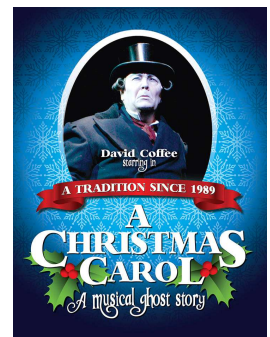


Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, August 27th, from 5-9 p.m.**, when GHS will be hosting a fundraiser at Flatbread Pizza in Georgetown at the Black Swan Country Club. For every large or small pizza sold, Flatbread will donate a portion of the sale to Georgetown Historical Society.

We hope you will join us for some delicious Flatbread pizza and a fun evening with family and friends. Visit our GHS table to buy raffle tickets to *A Christmas Carol*. Thank you to all who showed up to help support GHS at our fundraiser night at The Spot restaurant on July 22nd.

“A CHRISTMAS CAROL” TICKETS TO BE RAFFLED!

GHS is raffling off two tickets to see *A Christmas Carol* at the North Shore Music Theater in Beverly on December 6th or 7th (winner's choice). We will be selling raffle tickets at the Brocklebank Museum every Sunday from 2-5, and at all GHS events this summer and fall. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10 and can also be ordered by e-mailing us at georgetownhistoricalsociety@aol.com. The drawing will be held on October 22nd.



A NOTE FROM OUR GHS PRESIDENT

We are on Instagram! I would like to thank the Georgetown High School AP History class, their teacher Chris DiFranco, and Francis Wood, who took the lead for his classmates in setting us up on Instagram and creating a corresponding blog which is linked to our account. We now have a new platform to showcase Georgetown's rich, wide-ranging history.

I hope you have noticed our fence painting has started and I would be remiss without thanking Mary and Jim Saunders, Sylvia Johnston and Susan Oleszko for all their hard work. I most certainly could not have done so much by myself. The fence is scraped, sanded and we are almost finished priming it. Soon we will put a finish coat on it.

Please stop by to see our new displays including our historic inspired kitchen/door gardens. As always, feel free to reach out with any recommendations or concerns you have regarding the museum, the gardens or Georgetown Historical Society in general. We welcome and value the support of all of you, our members.

If you have time, we welcome your participation in any and all ongoing projects.

Betsy Moran

ANTIQUES APPRAISAL NIGHT



Our Antiques Appraisal Night was held on May 21st at the First Congregational Church of Georgetown and it was another great success! Many people showed up with some very interesting items to be appraised. Our sincere thanks to Dan Meader of McInnis Auctioneers for an entertaining and informative evening, to the First Congregational Church for use of their hall and to all who came and brought their heirlooms and artifacts to be appraised, as well as all those who purchased raffle tickets.

PENN BROOK STUDENTS VISIT MUSEUM

On June 14th, our tour guides welcomed about 104 Penn Brook School third-graders and their teachers for a tour of the Brocklebank Museum and one-room school house to learn about what life was like in the "old days." Although we are always happy to do this tour for free, the students surprised us by taking up a collection and presenting us with \$104 to help with the upkeep of the museum!

Thank you to our wonderful tour guides and helpers for making this a fun and memorable day for the students. Our crew this year consisted of Betsy Moran, Sylvia Johnston, Chris Comiskey, Lew Harrold, Rick Detwiller, Karen Brockelbank, and Bridget Cruwys. Thank you also to the Officer Henry Olshefsky of the Georgetown Police Department for safely guiding the kids across busy East Main Street.



HELLOS AND GOOD-BYES

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members, Darlene Dupre, Catherine Nigro and Neil Gleason.

We note with sadness the passing of Arthur Paquette. Arthur has contributed some wonderful photos to our digital archives, some of which are on display at the museum. His family very kindly designated GHS as a recipient of memorial donations, and we thank all who have contributed in his name.



Georgetown Historical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 376, Georgetown, MA 01833

Membership Form

Name(s) included in membership _____

Address _____

Phone number (optional) _____

E-mail _____

I would like to help GHS “go green” *and* save money. Please send my newsletter by e-mail. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Membership Levels:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 | BENEFACTOR(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | LIFE (One-time payment) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | SUSTAINER(S) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 | CONTRIBUTOR(S) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 30 | MEMBER(S) | | |

Optional:

- ☐ I would like to make a donation to Georgetown Historical Society’s Homer Tapin Memorial Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$_____

Your membership fee and scholarship donations are tax-deductible. Please make all checks payable to: Georgetown Historical Society.

Optional:

I would like to help as a GHS volunteer (check area(s) of interest)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Museum tour guide | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising/Merchandise sales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Board member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special events | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |



Georgetown Historical Society
P.O. Box 376
Georgetown, MA 01833

Georgetown Historical Society



OFFICERS

President

Betsy Moran

1st Vice President

Sylvia Johnston

2nd Vice President

Ralph Chouinard

Secretary

Lew Harrold

Treasurer

Michelle Cook

Curator

Karen Brockelbank

DIRECTORS

*Joe Corcoran, Mary Saunders, Rick Detwiller,
Jeff Lamoureaux, Christine Comiskey*

NEWSLETTER EDITOR *Christine Comiskey*

- JOIN US ON FACEBOOK! Search for “Georgetown Historical Society in Massachusetts” and “Georgetown MA History”
- VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.georgetownhistoricalsociety.com to see more information about GHS, upcoming events and Newsletter Archives
- E-MAIL US AT: georgetownhistoricalsociety@aol.com