

AEROGRAM

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A Flyer's Life in the Twenties

We are always amazed at how many of our museum members have a personal connection to aviation. We have often published stories about relatives of our members who were early aviators, and our featured article for this edition is yet another such account of early aviation.

The featured flyer in this article is Howard A. Kelly, Jr., great uncle of museum member, Dave Davis. Howard owned a Curtiss Model F Flying Boat, and operated it commercially out of Baltimore, MD, in the 1920s.



"All this talk nowadays about keeping airplanes away from cities shows how quickly time flies. Only a little over 30 years ago I used to get in my old Curtiss Flying Boat, which I kept next to the old Hanover Street Bridge, and roam at will in and out among Baltimore's tallest buildings, waving at office workers. I made countless flights for the benefit of the St. Mary's Industrial School rebuilding fund in the early twenties, flying over the city dropping toy balloons or benefit tickets to Ford's Opera House. In those days my plane was known as a hydroaeroplane. I kept it moored at the foot of the Hanover Street Bridge at the northwest corner of Hanover Street, from where it was necessary sometimes to taxi as far as the old Lazaretto Lighthouse before I could safely take off. During the summers of 1920 and 1921, I tried carrying passengers from Baltimore to Norfolk, but found that this venture into the airplane business could not be operated at a profit.

Once I was taken to court and fined \$10 and costs for using the plane to shoot wild geese over the flats of the Upper Chesapeake Bay. I carried a shotgun with me on that occasion - a cloudy day in November 1920 - and managed to shoot down two swans among a flock of wild fowl I encountered in the air. Normally, nothing would have happened as a result, but my father, Dr. Howard A. Kelly, was upset and reported me to the State Game Warden, E. Lee LeCompte. Mr. LeCompte, who had never before had to deal with game-law violations from an airplane, wasn't sure exactly what he should do about the matter, and so he consulted Washington.

Baltimore, MD - Hanover Street Bridge in background 1920.



- continued from p.1 -

The United States District Game Warden, Thomas Bloxson, then came up to Baltimore in person and took the case to court.

A friend of mine, Edward W. Boker, was in the plane with me on August 4, 1920, when I came as near crashing as at any time I can remember. We were returning from Solomons Island in the center of storm clouds, and it was pretty much of a hit or miss proposition as to just when was the right time to descend out of them and make a landing. When we did go down, we got within about 50 feet of the Patapsco's surface before I suddenly saw we were headed directly for a group of anchored boats. I managed to pull up in time and then we climbed back up into the center of the storm. The Hanover Street Bridge never looked more wonderful than when we finally landed and moored the plane that day.



I used to make trips to Eastern Shore pretty regularly, and in 1920 carried the first airmail out of Baltimore to Betterton.

There were regular days when I flew doctors from Baltimore to Cambridge, too, as the hospital there was not properly staffed at the time and operations were performed by doctors from Baltimore. They seemed to prefer a one-day round trip in my plane to an overnight trip by boat.

On weekends I also used to make a business of flying friends of mine and others to the Harford Boat Club. I remember it used to make them mad when they had to pay.

Another scheme my brother and I worked out was to fly passengers to the old Bay Shore Amusement Park on Sunday afternoons. He would carry a passenger on his back through the shallow water near the Hanover Street Bridge to my plane and I would then fly them down to the amusement park. We used to make \$5 a head on those trips, and sometimes came away with \$400 from an afternoon's work. "



Howard A. Kelly,
second from left →

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In Memory of Reginald Miner

Greg Hintz
Michael & Rita Moretti
Doug & Connie Malone

In Memory of Bill Gilmore

David & Beth Gilmore
Barros Family
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Jerry & Jeanne Madden
Ray & Wilma Poehlein
Brian & Marilyn Grigsby
Roger & Elfriede Tompkins
GSD&M

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Joe & Priscilla Luppino
Lucy & Luther Perkins
Helen Doherty
David Clark
Michael & Rita Moretti
Margaret Donovan
Hazel White
Don Benham

In Memory of Sam Barclay

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Pierce & Nancy Johnson
Millie Barclay
Art & Kay Wilder
Lou & Jeanette Fell
Kathleen Olesky
Barb & Hank Scudder
Ray & Wilma Poehlein
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FROM THE DIRECTOR - *Trafford L-M. Doherty*

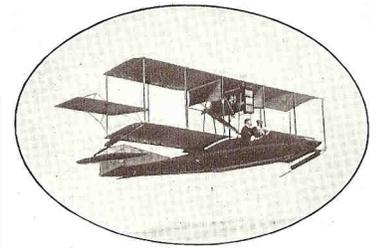
Last winter was kind of a lark with lots of sun, not much snow, and relatively warm temperatures. This year, however, we're getting the "real deal", with plenty of snow and "brisk" temperatures – it was minus 5 degrees last night up at my house (a.k.a. "Ice Station Zebra" - mainly because of the wind). Of course, we could be up in northern Minnesota, where it was minus 32! Those folks really *are* tough! Despite these minor winter travails, the museum is progressing through the cold season in fine shape, with enough hardy individuals coming through the front door to keep us on our toes. And it will be spring before we know it. At the time of this writing, our 22nd Annual Miniatures and Doll House Exhibit only had about two weeks to go. It seems as though it was just last week when we set it up, but it was actually the middle of November. We have two exhibits of an annual nature that tend to promote repeat visits (albeit on a yearly basis). The Miniatures exhibit is probably the strongest, but a close second would be the embroidery/quilt exhibit that immediately precedes the miniatures in the yearly schedule. I refer to it in this way because the embroidery and quilt exhibits alternate, taking their turn every other year. These are very popular exhibits that bring people back year after year and that is very important to us.

Further along in this issue, in *Curator's Corner*, you will read about our upcoming Civil War exhibit that focuses on local individuals who fought at the Battle of Gettysburg, 150 years ago. Our Curator, Rick Leisenring, is "pulling out all the stops" on this one and it will be spectacular. The Curtiss Museum has always had a Civil War presence, mainly because of a local soldier, Monroe Brundage. The Brundage family is on par with the likes of the Hammond and Champlin families; names so significant to the history of this area. The Civil War continues to be of great interest to the visiting public and over the last several years, we have steadily been "ramping up" our Civil War presentation. Two things have made this possible: My Curator being a Civil War "buff" and the continuing generosity of our members. Past contributions have provided for, among other things, a cannon and several mannequins, all of which have been used to good effect. But, this year, we have something new. Rochester member, Larry Peckham, recently made a very generous donation to the museum with the intent of supporting our exhibit program. He had one request – he would like to see something that could be dedicated to the memory of his father, Lewis W. Peckham. With that in mind, we purchased something that Rick and I had long desired – a Ron Tunison statue of *Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain on Little Round Top** This is one of his best-known pieces and we were able to get the last one he made. Ron, who has since retired, lives in the Cairo, New York area and I suggest that you *Google* "Ron Tunison Sculpture" to get an idea of this man's skill and stature in his field. This lovely work will be a significant element in our upcoming Gettysburg exhibit and following that, it will remain as a permanent part of our on-going Civil War presentation.

*Chamberlain was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his exploits at Gettysburg, specifically on *Little Round Top*



Photo by Ron Tunison



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov.17,2012 - Feb.19,2013
22nd Annual Dollhouse & Miniatures Exhibit

February 23-24, 2013
Winter Cycle Therapy Motorcycle Event

March 2, 2013
Civil War Indoor Encampment

March 2 – Sept. 3, 2013
Gettysburg! Civil War Exhibit

May 11, 2013
Old Engines Day

June 1, 2013
Indoor Yard Sale 9-4

July 13, 2013
Curtiss Museum Gala Reservations Required

August 3, 2013
Curtiss Classic Motorcycle Day

August 19, 2013
Curtiss Museum Golf Classic

Sept. 13 - Nov. 4, 2013
Quilt Exhibit



Model E - 1912

From the Education Department - Don Rumsey

Greetings from the Education Department! I hope everyone is healthy and safe. Everything here is shaping up to be a very busy year.

I have been working on couple of education projects this winter. The first, being new flight simulation computers in the children's play area. Both of the old computers had been in operation for several years had work done to them in the past. Last month I took them one at a time to be fixed once again, but there was no fix for them this time. So we have replaced them with brand new towers and they are working perfectly.



Another project that I have been working on, mentioned in the last Aeroqram, is changing the archeological dig site location. We have decided to go ahead with this project and are shooting for a start date of mid to late March, weather permitting. This way the site will be ready for the 2013 archeological dig season. Our first dig is schedule for mid May, so this should give us plenty of time to have things up and running. I am very excited about this project and can't wait for the kids to be able to use it.

In closing, I want to thank all of the Docents for the wonderful job they do, and I look forward to working with all of you in 2013. Hope to talk with you soon.

From The Restoration Shop

There's lots of activity in the shop this winter with progress being made on a 1942 Jeep restoration, the wings for our 1929 Curtiss Fledgling and a 1927 Curtiss-designed motor boat. Both the Fledgling and the Curtiss boat have been in work for several years. Whereas the Fledgling is likely to have several years to go, the boat, which has been a solo project by Duncan Springstead, is nearing completion. And it's going to be beautiful.

The Jeep, on the other hand, was given to the museum only last summer by the late Ralph Brewer of Bath, NY. It was actually driven here, so the restoration is largely cosmetic, requiring quite a bit of sheet metal repair work. It's proving to be fun project that, hopefully, will be completed this year. Our plan is to place it out by our "Flying Tigers" P-40 exhibit where it will fit in just fine. Another project that made a lot of progress in 2012 is the recovering of a 1920's Travel Air 2000, placed on loan to us by museum member, Dick Rogers, from Hackettstown, NJ. Although this particular project will remain dormant through the winter months, it is far enough along that it might see completion in 2013.



NEW MEMBERS

Contributor

Tim Atwood
Don Harris
Joe Gavin
James Cerruti
Mr. & Mrs. E. M. Snyder
Brian Miller
Kenneth Adams
C. Dorian Walker
Dennis & Elisabeth Madden
Bill Clock
Peter & Mindy Winnett
David & Mamie Anderson
Joe Allen
Michael Stopka
Mark & Aimee Bajorek

Basic

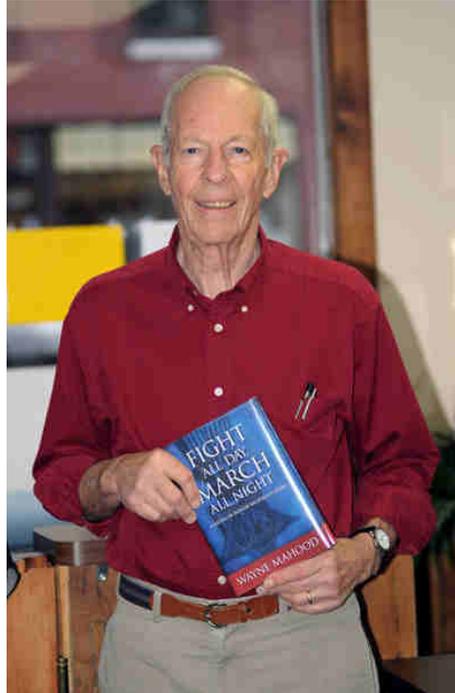
Mat Leupold
Richard Springer
Elizabeth Casey
Leah Graves
Steven Sheehan
Kenneth Sherwood
Dolores Worth
Barbara Hampson
Douglas Burt
Lucia Wheeler
Walter Kahn
Andrea Barrett
Michael Clayton
Jeremiah Langen
Eileen Yancy
Richard Amir
Mary Groce
Barbara Smith
Marcia Hubbard
George Jensen
Robert Heinig
Robert Higgins
Ron King
Robert Hunn

**FISHING
CHARTER
WINNER**
Mary DeSocio
of Pine City, NY



CURATOR'S CORNER - RICK LEISENRING

In commemoration of the 150th Anniversary, the exhibit on the Battle of Gettysburg, entitled "GETTYSBURG!", is well under way. This will open on March 2, 2013 with the Annual Civil War Encampment (indoor). As mentioned in my last ramblings, the focus of this summer-long exhibit will be New York and the Finger Lakes Region's participation in that great battle. We are pleased to announce that we will have a guest speaker here on March 2nd to present a very special powerpoint presentation. Professor Emeritus, Wayne Mahood, of Geneseo State College, will present the compelling story of Morris Brown, Jr., a Hammondsport son, who won the coveted Medal of Honor at the battle of Gettysburg. Mr. Mahood has just published a book on Brown's service in the war entitled *Fight All Day, March All Night: A Medal of Honor Recipient's Story* and will also be available to sign copies of his book that day. Not to be overlooked that day will be the great demonstrations of drill and musket firings put on by the Civil War re-enactors of the 140th New York Volunteer Infantry, USA and the 21st Georgia Volunteer infantry, CSA along with camp and 1860s civilian life displays.



Wayne Mahood with new book

Again, I would like to invite all of you to contact me regarding any ancestors you may have who participated in that battle. This is your chance to participate in a most important exhibit. Please contact me (Rick Leisenring, curator) here at the museum by phone 607-569-2160 or by email curator@glennhcurtissmuseum.org.

Continuing projects - to upgrade and build future displays and exhibits - we have been greatly honored to be the benefactor of two generous contributions. First by the Alfred and Lois Kelch Charitable Trust to further "preserve and interpret early aviation, transportation and local history" through our exhibits and secondly from Larry Peckham and family to support our manikin project and other displays. Thank you again for your support. Donations like these are the only way we can insure we maintain the quality and variety that is so important to the success of this museum.

Displays. Many of our members and visitors have made inquiries over the years regarding Glenn's trophies and medals. These were acquired by the Smithsonian through the Glenn Curtiss, Jr. estate over 40 years ago. While they have always been on public display, it was just recently that beautiful photos of them have been posted on the internet. If you follow this link you will be able to view them and read a brief description regarding their history. This is an opportunity to be an "armchair tourist". Enjoy!

<http://airandspace.si.edu/collections/collection.cfm?collid=1468&startRow=3001&showrecords=16>



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Trustee Emeritus

MOTORCYCLES COMING THIS MONTH!



www.OddBallOldDog.net



WINTERCYCLE THERAPY

At the

Curtiss

Museum

Hammondsport, NY 607-569-2160

February 23 & 24, 2013
A must see indoor event with
over 100 Vintage
Motorcycles
on display!!



Don't miss this fabulous display of antique, classic and vintage motorcycles!

On display near the America and wherever we can fit them in.

Reduced admission of \$6 both days.

Out thanks to museum member, Bob Harris, for putting this great display together for the past two years.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Betty Nelson
Tom Carpenter

In Memory of Lucinda Harrell
Janet Hallahan

In Memory of Richard Leisenring, Sr.
Janet Hallahan
Ray & Wilma Poehlein
Kay & Art Wilder
Robert & Lynn Domras

In Memory of Carol Moses
John Wilder

In Memory of Louis Casey
Marian Hilliard
Ed & Elizabeth Dinwiddie
Alan & Dorothy VanWickler

In Memory of Betty Baldwin
Leslie Baldwin

In Memory of Lester Sampson
Edna & Alan Llewellyn

In Memory of Randon Baker
Janet Hallahan

In Memory of Robert Hallahan
Janet Hallahan
Kathryn Horton
Roger & Barbara Miller

In Memory of Bob Wilder
Janet Hallahan
Freeman Smith

In Memory of Glenn Babcock
Brian & Marilyn Grigsby

In Memory of Edith Tanner
Bob & Lynn Domras

RESTORATION DONATION

Robert & Naomi McMahon
Janet Hallahan
Lee Schwoerer

RESTRICTED DONATIONS

OX5 Aviation Pioneers
Kevin House

MARKETING COMMITTEE REPORT

The first order of business in this summary is to say thank you to all members and visitors for their support in 2012. It was a record year for visitors which exceeded 21,000 in number.

I believe it is safe to say that our continually-improved displays, additions and events have indeed led to this tremendous support and interest. In addition, our new entrance sign has helped in visitors being aware of the museum and our public relations activities have definitely helped in getting the word out on events and museum happenings. Word of mouth continues to be a strong generator of visitors so we ask everyone to help keep the word moving.

Marketing funds that previously had been spent on Billboards will be redirected to our Public Relations efforts which will be focused on events and special interest groups with an expanded regional basis. Tools used for these public relation communications will also incorporate a broader use of social media which has received more activity over the last year.

Again, thank you for your support and your future contribution to a successful 2013.

Dennis Carlson

DONATE A MUSEUM TABLE

30" X 96" plastic banquet table \$80 each. We can still use a few more. They look nice and are easy to carry and set up for dinners and meetings.



Ralph Brown retires from Museum Board -

Long-time board member and local businessman, Ralph Brown retired from the board in December. He and his wife Maxine, sold their business here in town, the Hammondsport Motel, and have moved Ohio to live closer to their children.

We appreciate Ralph's many years of dedicated service and wish him and Maxine all the best as they begin their new life in Ohio.

Ralph (on left) and team supporting our annual fundraising golf tournament in August 2012. →



MEMBERSHIP DONATIONS

Edward Babor
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8419 State Route 54
Hammondsport, NY 14840

Phone: 607-569-2160
Fax: 607-569-2040
Email: info@glennhcurtissmuseum.org
Web: www.glennhcurtissmuseum.org



FALL 2012

MUSEUM HOURS

WINTER

Nov.1-Apr. 30
Mon.-Sun. 10-4

SUMMER

May 1-Oct.31
Mon.-Sat. 9-5
Sunday 10-5

Museum closed on the following holidays:

New Year's Day
Easter Sunday
Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day

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Hammondsport, NY

CURTISS MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please check the membership category of your choice and return to:

The Glenn H. Curtiss Museum, 8419 State Route 54, Hammondsport, NY 14840

Basic \$35 Sponsor \$125 Patron \$500
 Contributing \$50 Donor \$250 Sustaining \$750
 Benefactor \$1000

My name(s) as it is to appear in printed matter : _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ e-mail address _____

My check is enclosed

Please bill my Credit Card# _____ exp. date _____

(Mastercard-Visa-Discover-American Express) V-code _____

Signature _____

Additional tax-deductible donations will be used for museum improvements including up-grading facilities, restoration shop and new exhibits.

My additional donation _____

Membership Benefits:

Unlimited free admission • Invitations to exhibit openings and receptions • Guest passes
Subscription to the museum newsletter • Volunteer opportunities
Discounts on museum programs and events • Discounts in the museum shop