

THE WILDFOWLER

JULY 2023

A PUBLICATION OF THE ATLANTIC WILDFOWL HERITAGE MUSEUM

Back Bay Wildfowl Memories

As the summer heat hits full blast in Virginia Beach, people from everywhere are flocking to the ocean. While the tendency to hit the waves when the going gets hot is not unique to a given time or people, what we *wear* (or don't!) certainly is. From full-on dresses to itty-bitsy bikinis, you'll love this history of women's swimwear at deWitt Cottage.

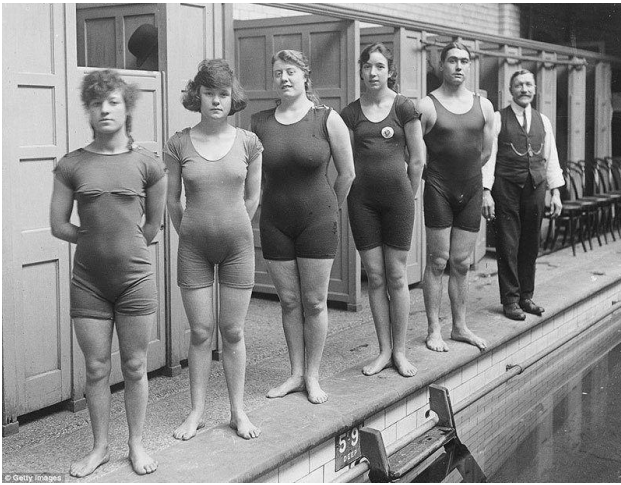
The history of women's swimwear begins with a simple outfit known as the birthday suit! All jokes aside, up until the 19th-century people frequently bathed nude. And while women were known to cover themselves with clothing that resembles our modern-day bikini, the outfits weren't for public swimming.

In fact, swimsuits were invented in the mid-1800s. Their creation came out of necessity; recent improvements in railroad systems and other transportation methods had finally made swimming and going to the beach a practical and reasonable recreational activity.



If you saw a picture of swimsuit-clad women in the second half of the 19th century, you'd have a hard time recognizing their outfits as swimwear. The times called for swimsuits that more closely resembled a belted dress over long bloomers (aka baggy pants). While they weren't aesthetically appealing, the swimwear fulfilled its primary purpose: to conceal a woman's body.





Back in those days, women were compelled to conceal their bodies in the name of “modesty.” For that reason, the top portion of the swimsuit hung low like a dress to hide the woman’s figure. These suits were made from heavy flannel fabric that was both opaque and sturdy enough to not rise with the water. Only at the turn of the century, when swimming became an intercollegiate and Olympic sport, did people realize that the current swimwear lineup had been designed without functionality in mind. As the sport grew, swimsuits became more streamlined and less heavy, paving the way for styles to come. At this point in the history of women’s swimwear, women often accessorized with soft bathing slippers that provided added protection against rough shores.

By 1910, women’s swimwear was less restrictive and heavy. Women exposed their arms, hemlines crept up to the mid-thigh and designers used less fabric to conceal a girl’s figure. As the 1920s rolled around, the swimsuits got smaller, and the demand for them grew larger. Hollywood and Vogue both popularized the idea of swimwear being sexy and glam, a trend that would persist in the decades to come.

When the picture at right was taken in 1922, women were subjected to “swimsuit police” who literally measured the length of their swimwear.



While two-piece suits were common in the years leading up to World War II, they usually covered a woman’s navel and left only a bit of midriff visible. In 1946, French designer Louis Reard introduced the world to the first modern bikini, featuring significantly less fabric than its predecessors.

Its name has roots in the war: Reard was inspired to name his two-piece after a newsworthy US atomic test with the name Bikini Atoll. The new design was so risqué that the designer had to hire Micheline Bernardini, a Parisian showgirl, to model it. (Picture right)



While changes to future generations of swimwear were mostly aesthetic in nature, a few iconic swim styles stood out and captivated the country. Take, for instance the red one-piece that stars, like Pamela Anderson and Carmen Electra, donned for *Baywatch*.



As women’s swimwear has expanded to include a variety of styles, so too has it introduced new, accompanying industries. One of which is swimsuit photography, which got its start in the middle of the 20th century and has since catapulted into popularity. And while we may not always appreciate the “openness” that modern swimwear has introduced, it did lead the way for more freedoms for women.

By Kiri Picone | Edited By John Kuroski

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Upcoming Guild Events:

07/04/2023: July 4th Holiday

07/10, 17, 24, 31/2023: de Witt Garden Club

10:00 am, at the museum

Meets every Monday

We are a hands-on Garden Club

So, bring your gloves and tools.

07/18/2023: Board Meeting

6:00 pm at the Museum

08/08, 14, 21, 28,/ 2023: de Witt Garden Club

10:00 am, at the museum

Meets every Monday

We are a hands-on Garden Club

So, bring your gloves and tools.

09/04/2023: Labor Day

09/05/2023 Back Bay Wildfowl Guild

Membership Meeting 7:00pm, Social 6:00pm

Speaker: TBA

09/12, 19, 26/2023: de Witt Garden Club

10:00 am, at the museum

Meets every Monday

No meeting Monday, September 4th

We are a hands-on Garden Club

So, bring your gloves and tools.

09/20/2023: Board Meeting

6:00 pm at the Museum

Save these Dates

Sunday, 09/24/2023 AWHM Fall Barbeque & Oyster Roast

This will also be a Back Bay Wildfowl Guild Homecoming and Reunion

Tuesday, 12/05/2023 5:00pm until 9:00pm

AWHM Christmas Party

deWitt Cottage

12/09/2023- Photos with Santa & the Red Truck,



DECOYS WANTED

WE BUY WOODEN OR CANVAS DUCKS, GEESE, SWANS & SHOREBIRDS...
WHAT IS YOUR DECOY WORTH? IT COULD BE WORTH THOUSANDS!

WE WILL PAY YOU **CASH** FOR ANY OLD DECOYS AND HUNTING ITEMS



FREE DECOY IDENTIFICATION
AND EVALUATIONS
of Single Decoys or Entire Collections
BY MARK CROMWELL
(757) 721-2746
Member North Carolina Decoy Collectors Assoc.

COLLECTOR'S SHELF

James MacMaster Codman (1831-1917)



The decoys we will discuss from this point forward in our Lighthouse Club Chronicle appear to be factory-made carvings, perhaps Dodge or Stevens. The names on the decoys and when those names appear in the Lighthouse Club's logbook (Score Book) suggest they date back as far as the 1880s. Let's begin with one bearing the stamp/brand "J.M. CODMAN." (It also bears the stamp/brand "J.G. CUSHING," whom we will discuss in next month's chapter.)





While not one of the six founders of the Lighthouse Club, James MacMaster Codman was one of its earliest and most active members as evidenced by his name's appearance on p.1 of the club's Score Book in 1874 and numerous times thereafter. He was a direct lineal descendant of Richard Codman, one of the initial 1630 settlers of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. His grandfather was John Codman (1755-1803), whose shipping business owned many American-built ships and exported to and imported from Europe and Russia. Specifically for our purposes, John married Katherine (Amory) Codman, making her the grandmother of our James and establishing James's relationship to our Arthur Amory, the "Great Gatsby" of the Lighthouse Club. John Codman left his heirs a considerable fortune, which obviously enabled his grandson James to enjoy a lavish lifestyle and to travel extensively. Lucy Codman, James' niece, married William Gibson Borland, son of John Nelson Borland whom we presented in our previous chapter. Again, the Boston Brahmins and our Lighthouse Club members consistently intermarried to keep the wealth all in the families.

James was born in Paris, the last child of Charles Russell Codman and Anne MacMaster. He graduated from Harvard in 1851 and married Henrietta Gray Sargent. Her father, Ignatius Sargent (1800-1884) was a director of the Boston & Albany Railroad and president of the Bigelow Bank of Boston. Ignatius's Boston Brahmin family tree included Saltonstalls, Brooks, Winthrops, and Everetts. He added much to the already substantial Sargent fortune via his railroad investments, which no doubt, benefitted his daughter Henrietta and her husband James.

Back to our subject James, he was involved with the East India trade, which resulted in his need to travel. He actively studied cattle, served as president of the American Guernsey Cattle Club, and visited the island of Guernsey in the English Channel, from where he brought the first herd of Guernsey cows to this country. His travels also took him to India (Bombay) and Crimea. Finally, our research indicates he knew and communicated in writing with Daniel Webster, whom we learned earlier recommended Benjamin Curtis (cousin and professional associate of our Charles Pelham Curtis) to President Millard Fillmore for his seat on the U.S. Supreme Court.

While our information about James MacMaster Codman is somewhat limited, we do know he was another notable Bostonian Harvard graduate who enjoyed generational wealth that allowed him to travel the world extensively, while also venturing south to the Lighthouse Club on Currituck Sound to hunt waterfowl during the winter months. Written and edited by Larry Davenport

	<p>Free Decoy Identification and Evaluation By Jeff Tinkham Past President of The Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum Call (757) 724-7131 or jeff@tinkhamlaw.com</p>	
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FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope most of you know by now that we have been renting the deWitt Cottage and surrounding grounds as a venue for various types of events; such as, family reunions, graduation parties, picnics, corporate retreats, baby showers, and wedding ceremonies and receptions. In the pictures below on June 10, 2023 Brad and Elizabeth Zartman were saying their wedding vows while being closely watched by a four legged wedding crasher. You never know what adventure awaits at the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum.



Beginning July 3, 2023 through July 25, 2023, You, your family and friends will be able to purchase fresh Wicked Salts Oysters and Little Neck Clams to go from Ocean Cove Seafood to benefit Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum (AWHM). AWHM will receive a percentage of all orders sold. If you have ever been to one of our annual oyster roast, you are familiar with the delicious taste of these oysters. We are excited to partner and fundraise with Ocean Cove Seafood, who has supported us for years. You must pre-order online with Eventbrite at: [Eventbrite AWHM Wicked Salts Fundraiser](#). 50 Count Wicked Salts Oyster \$50, 100 Count Wicked Salts Oyster \$80, 100 Count Little Neck Clams \$45. All orders will be picked up July 28, 2023 at AWHM from 4 pm - 5:30 pm. Bring a cooler and ice to accommodate your order.

KINFEST is the largest gathering of non-profit organizations in Hampton Roads and celebrates all the great work these organizations accomplish. This year Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum (AWHM) has been chosen as the beneficiary of this celebration. The event will be held at the Virginia Beach Military Aviation Museum, on Saturday, August 19, 2023, From Noon until 4:00pm. Please come out and support AWHM, it is a great family friendly event.

Thanks, Lynn Hightower, Director





Sunday, September 24, 2023 From 1:00pm until 6:00pm

Annual Oyster Roast And Fall Barbecue

**At deWitt Cottage
1113 Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, VA**

Advance Tickets \$65.00

Buy Two Tickets for \$120.00 and save an additional \$10.00.

Tickets will be \$75.00 the day of the event

To Purchase Tickets: www.eventbrite.com

FEATURING: Pork Barbecue and Beef Brisket Sandwiches by Beach Bully BBQ, Roasted Sewansecott Eastern Shore Oysters. Live Music from Billy Kendra's Tiki Bar Band, Beer, Wine, and Cocktails - all included with your ticket.

PLUS you will receive a one year membership to the AWHM Museum.



BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Aimee Rhodes, President Phil Davenport, Vice President
Parke Atkinson, Secretary Larry Davenport, Treasurer
Jim Briggs Mark Cromwell
Tom Richards Jason Seward
Jeff Tinkham Jim Mehne
William Walsh, Jr., Curator
Fletcher Bryant, President Emeritus

MUSEUM CARVERS

Monday	Open
Tuesday:	Open
Wednesday:	Roy Carlson & Ed Morrison
Thursday:	Open
"The Boathouse Boys" Carving Club:	Jamie, John, Pete
Friday:	Susan Moritz
Saturday:	Open
Sunday:	Open

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Tuesday:	OPEN
Wednesday:	OPEN
Thursday	OPEN
Friday:	OPEN
Saturday:	OPEN
Sunday:	OPEN

Museum Grounds: Jacky & Tom Richards, Martha Davenport

MUSEUM STAFF

Lynn Hightower, Director Joe Leo, Operations Mgr.
Bailey Rhodes, Gift Shop

MUSEUM CONTACT INFORMATION

ATLANTIC WILDFOWL HERITAGE MUSEUM
1113 Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Telephone: 757.437.8432
Facsimile: 757.437.9055
Website: www.awhm.org
Email: director@atwildfowl.org

You can now pay your dues online at awhm.org !

Please understand that we depend on every dollar to operate the museum. If you have not yet paid your 2023 dues, please give serious consideration to sending them into the museum right away. Beginning January 1, 2023, Membership cards will have an expiration date. Each member will receive an invoice from the museum director requesting payment of their annual dues after the expiration date. Memberships run for 12 consecutive months from the date annual dues are paid.

2023 DUES

\$35/YR INDIVIDUAL
\$100/YR BRONZE
\$500/YR GOLD

\$50/FAMILY
\$200/YR SILVER
\$1,000/YR PRESIDENTS CIRCLE



BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD 2023 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME: _____ AMOUNT PAID _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____ [CELL] _____

January 1, 2023 kicked off our Annual Membership Campaign. Each member is encouraged to find one new member to join the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild. Our very existence depends on growing the membership of the Guild. Please encourage everyone you know to become a member!

Please pass this newsletter on to any potential new member!

