



## President's Letter

"Historic and unprecedented." That's how the winter of 2018 has been described, and it's true. It certainly has been a winter that will be long remembered.

On January 4th nor'easter Grayson brought high winds, flooding astronomical tides, and the winter's first blow of significant erosion. An early January cold snap froze the surface of Nauset Harbor, and receding tides deposited huge ice floes on the shore. Cape Cod Bay was iced over as far as the eye could see. The bay's water temperature dipped to 36 degrees, resulting in the death of four thresher sharks. February saw its usual mix of winter and hints of spring.

But, then came March with four historic nor'easters – Quinn, Riley, Skylar, and Toby – in just three weeks. Toby was the mildest, and hopefully the last one for this year! You probably saw the pictures and heard the newscasts. Powerful winds (one gust topping 93 mph), astronomical high tides, gigantic surf, rains and flooding, snow and ice, and words like "bombogenesis" being tossed out by weather forecasters. The results: trees down, poles snapped, multi-day power outages, road closures, re-sculpting of the shoreline, flattening of dunes, multiple washovers on the Spit, flooding of the marshes, and further shoaling on the west side of the Spit. Priscilla Landing was totally flooded, and masses of rack and debris were pushed on to the shore and under the bluff. It is estimated that more than 35 feet of beach were lost at Nauset, exposing old leeching fields and leaving Liam's and the gazebo vulnerable to toppling over the edge of what remained of the dunes. The gazebo has since

been moved to higher ground, and Liam's has been demolished – a sad end to a special era.

The erosion at Nauset also exposed imprints of cart wheels and horse hooves from over a hundred years ago and the remnants of a long-forgotten road. These are enduring reminders of the fragile and ever-changing nature of the shoreline, used and loved by generations of residents and visitors. We say goodbye to some of the familiar vistas and places on Nauset and say hello to new memories in the making.

The weather may be wild and unpredictable, but Nauset is still my favorite place in the world, and I consider myself very lucky to call it home.

Looking forward to the summer and seeing you on the Heights!

- Sandy Davidson



*100 year old imprints of cart wheels and horse hooves revealed at Nauset Beach*



# Attack on Orleans

Excerpt from "Nauset Heights, A Cape Cod Community by the Sea"

On the sultry, calm Sunday morning of July 21, 1918, during the waning months of World War I, a prototype German submarine surfaced several miles off Nauset Beach, and attacked an unarmed tugboat and her four barges. Several of the shells fired by the submarine's two deck-mounted guns landed on Nauset Beach and in the Nauset marshlands, providing the Town of Orleans with the distinction of being the only place in the United States to receive enemy fire during the entire war.

It has been surmised that the U-156 submarine was stationed off Nauset Inlet for the purpose of finding, and then cutting, the French Trans-Atlantic Cable that ran directly from Brest, France to Orleans. Perhaps frustrated, the German skipper surfaced, and then spotted his targets.

The one hundred forty foot tugboat, the Perth Amboy, was traveling from Gloucester towards New York with the four barges in tow. Vessels stayed close to shore at that time, since there had been reports of German submarines patrolling along the East Coast. There were about thirty people on the five vessels, with Captain Joseph Perry and his family on the second barge. With bathers watching from all along Nauset beach, the U-156 submarine opened fire first at the iron tugboat, then at the barges. When the tugboat's wooden pilothouse took a direct hit, and all four barges sank in succession, the barge crews and passengers abandoned ship, rowing for the Nauset Inlet with white flags flying in their small lifeboats.

Reuben S. B. Hopkins was on duty at the Orleans Life Saving Station. He witnessed the attack from the tower, and immediately notified the Naval Air Station in Chatham. Short-handed at the time, the Air Station sent a Curtiss HS-2L flying boat, which circled the submarine and returned to Chatham. After that, they sent a R-9 Pontoon Seaplane, which made several harmless passes over the submarine dropping bombs normally used in target practice. Often unreliable, all of them failed on this day due to dud fuses. The frustrated pilot, Charles Reber, finally threw his tool kit, including a monkey wrench, at the enemy vessel.

After an aborted attempt to fire at the Life Saving Station, the U-156 submerged and disappeared toward the north. More than one hundred shells had been fired during a period of only thirty-five

minutes. A surfboat from the Station, launched directly into the line of fire, rescued the crew of seventeen from the tug. The surfmen were credited with saving the life of the tug's helmsman, John Bogavich, whose arm was severely injured and later would require amputation. The surfboat landed safely back at the Station.



The Boston Post newspaper headline on July 22, 1918

## Attack on Orleans (cont)

In the meantime, Nauset Bluff and the beachfront swarmed with residents and sightseers who welcomed the remaining survivors near the Big Rock (see updated photo of the status of the Big Rock on the next page). Except for John Bogavich, there were no other serious casualties, and those in need were given first aid at the home of Dr. Daniel Taylor and his wife Josephine on Nauset Road. In all, there were thirty-one people, including three women and five children. Nauset residents offered many of them food, clothing, and beds until they were able to leave for Boston from the Orleans train depot a day or two later.

The Perth Amboy was rescued the next day, taken to a New York shipyard, and then returned to coastal towing in November. The four barges remain at the bottom of the Atlantic in nineteen fathoms of water. Returning to Germany's Kiel coastal sub-base, the U-156 submarine struck a mine off the coast of Norway and was lost at sea. Twenty-one of her thirty crewmen made it to shore and survived.



Women with sign atop Nauset Bluff taken circa 1920s

## Events Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Attack on Orleans

**May 17 at 7:00 PM**, A Symposium on the 1918 Attack will be held at Snow Library. Local historians will discuss the attack, its context, and its significance

**July 12 at 7:00 PM**, the above Symposium will repeat at Snow Library

**July 19 at 7:00 PM**, Jake Klim, author of *Attack on Orleans* (History Press 2014) will speak at the Orleans Historical Society

**July 20 at 7:00 PM**, Paul Hodos, author of *The Kaiser's Lost Kreuzer* (McFarland and Co. 2018) will speak at the Orleans Historical Society about the U-156 and what the sub's mission was on July 21, 1918

**July 21 at 5:00 PM**, a Centennial Commemoration Ceremony will be held at Nauset Beach, the Nauset Sea Scout Ship 72 will display a Race Point Surfboat with oars on a trailer and scouts in uniforms

**July 22 at 3:00 PM**, the Orleans Historical Society will hold an Illustrated Talk. "American Popular Music during World War I" -

## Board of Directors



Nancy Case  
Director '19



Kathy Pattison  
Corresponding Secy



Charlie Carlson  
2nd Vice President



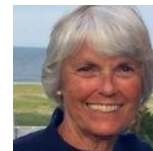
Scott Scharf  
Director '20



Sandy Davidson  
President



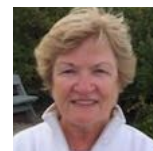
Todd Shipman  
Director '19



Ann Deming  
Director '18



Dave Strickler  
1st Vice President



Meredith Farmer  
Clerk



Richard Thompson  
Director '20



Tim Hunt  
Director '18



Fred Turner  
Treasurer



King Nelson  
Recording Secy



Jim Tyng  
Past President

## Eversource Outage Information & Emergency Alerts

This past winter it was critical to keep on top of information about the weather, tides and power outages. No matter what the season, NHA's website has it all in one location! Just go to [www.nausetheights.org](http://www.nausetheights.org) > Resources > Weather & Tides. The full link is: [www.nausetheights.org/resources/weather/](http://www.nausetheights.org/resources/weather/)

Another resource for updated safety information is Orleans Police Department. Follow them on Facebook or sign up for their Code Red system at: [www.town.orleans.ma.us/police-department/pages/codered](http://www.town.orleans.ma.us/police-department/pages/codered)

You can also view Nauset Spit remotely via webcam (as long as there is no power outage) at [www.nausetheights.org/resources/webcams/nauset-spit/](http://www.nausetheights.org/resources/webcams/nauset-spit/)



*Only the top surface of "The Big Rock" at Nauset Inlet is still visible*



*Icy flooding in the Mill Pond*



*Sand wash over filling in Nauset Inlet*

## In Remembrance

The following Nauset Heights residents or former residents have passed away since our last newsletter publication. We send our sympathy to their families. They will be dearly missed.

Mary Kinsley Kalinoski, 7/31/2017

Joe McGann, 8/7/2017

## 2018 NHA Events

**May 12th**

Spring Fling Clean-up

**June 9th**

Board of Directors Meeting

**June 30th**

Organic Gardening (new this year)

**July 14th**

July Member Meeting

**July 16th**

Golf Outing

**July 21st**

Family Beach Bonfire

**July 28th**

Lawn Party

**August 4th & 5th**

Tennis Tournament

**August 11th**

Sand Sculpture Contest

**August 18th**

Annual Member Meeting

**September 8th**

Board of Directors Meeting

**October 13th**

Fall Spruce Up



Like us on  
Facebook



Nextdoor  
Join Nextdoor  
Nauset Heights



Nauset Heights Association  
PO Box 12  
East Orleans, MA 02643  
[nha@nausetheights.org](mailto:nha@nausetheights.org)  
[www.nausetheights.org/nha](http://www.nausetheights.org/nha)