


# CLUB TATTLER



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**Reminder  
Valentine's Day  
is Feb 14th**

**Notable Quote**

*"One changes from  
day to day...every few  
years one becomes a  
new being".*

*George Sand*

*COVER STORY*

## ***TWELFTH NIGHT 2004*** ***JOHN SGAMMATO***

### ***The Old Colony Club kicked off 2004 in style***

with our fourth annual Twelfth Night Party. Forty members and their spouses and guests made a total of eighty-six revelers. Dress was formal, either contemporary or from the period from 1875 to 1925, making a constellation of swirling color and texture to fill the beautifully-decorated rooms of our grand old house.

The party, as always, was made possible by the efforts of a dedicated committee of volunteers kept focused by the enthusiastic and energetic *Bill and Grace Sykes*. Special thanks are due to the many members who lent period-appropriate glass and silver plate dishes and glassware. *Joan Robbins* was especially instrumental in this regard, providing many of the best table linens in addition to a great number of decorative dishes.

The house was transformed from a staid club for gentlemen into a lively and sophisticated hive of activity by the efforts of the decorating committee, led by *Matt and Ellen Adams* and *Jim and Lois Cotter*.

Painstaking attention to historical detail,

guided by the encyclopedic knowledge of *Jim and Peg Baker*, was reflected in the way the display of the period food, and in the fabulous effect achieved when those attired in period formalwear entered each of the rooms.

Of course the decoration required some heavy lifting, unselfishly provided at different times by a number of members who were always ready to help make this event the success it was.

*Annette Talbot* and *Kalina Vendetti* created the exquisite array of canapes that started the evening. *Richmond Talbot* and *John Sgammato* produced the fancy molded salads (not without some misadventures along the way!), the poached salmon, and the much-celebrated lobster salad. The oysters were from the Island Creek Oyster Company in Duxbury; thanks once again to *Skip Taylor* for arranging for this highlight of the evening. The roasts were the product of the brilliant *Eric Piantedosi* of North Plymouth. The flaming Christmas Pudding that introduced the Champagne Toast was constructed by admitted amateur *John Sgammato* under the stern and watchful eye of master puddingsmith *Jim Baker*.

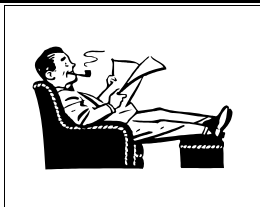
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### **Dates For the Club Calendar**

| <i>Day</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Function</i>  | <i>Menu</i> | <i>Time</i> |
|------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Fri.       | Jan 30      | Social Evening   | Pork        | 5:30 PM     |
| Fri.       | Feb 6       | Business Meeting | Roast Beef  | 5:30 PM     |
| Fri.       | Feb 13      | Social Meeting   | Lamb        | 5:30 PM     |
| Fri.       | Feb 20      | Social Meeting   | Ham & Beans | 5:30 PM     |
| Fri.       | Feb 27      | Social Meeting   | Pork        | 5:30 PM     |

*On red meat nights there will be chicken or fish alternatives and sugar free desserts are generally available. The kitchen will be happy to honor these or any special requests with proper notice.*



## Brothers in Arms by Bob Cole

*Surrender terms ending the Civil War were agreed upon when Lee and Grant met on April 9, 1865. Nearby Union soldiers cheered the news coming from the McLean house in Appomattox, and artillerymen fired off celebratory rounds until Grant ordered them to stop the nonsense. As he later said in his Memoirs, "The Confederates were now our prisoners, and we did not want to exult over their downfall." Meanwhile, Northern and Southern officers at the scene, many of them veterans of the "old Army," joined in conversations punctuated by eager grins and bone-jarring handshakes. Later, however, as individual Rebel soldiers passed by their disconsolate leader, many of them seemed heartbroken. As evening came, others gathered outside his tent hardly knowing what to do. The General told them, "Boys, I have done the best I could for you, Go home now" It was not until three days after Appomattox, though, that Lee's Army capitulated. When it did, the unceremonious nature of it was so distinctly American, and its unexpected grandeur illuminated the character of two of the bravest men ever to command American troops in battle.*

*The Confederates were led to the event by Gen. John B. Gordon. Commanding the 6th Alabama Regiment, he had been wounded five times at the Battle of Antietam, the last time in the face on the infamous sunken road known ever after as Bloody Lane. His opposite number was the scholar / soldier Gen. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, whose*

*Continued*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DON BROWN

### Greetings and Salutations,

Well, I have been your Club President for two weeks now with one monthly meeting down and eleven to go. The sewer project that we have been discussing for some time is now complete. We were fortunate that the weather cooperated with the McKenna's and they were able to get the sewer line replaced and the driveway repaired before the cold winter set in. It was a good thing too, as the old line was so bad it probably would have backed up on us during Twelfth Night.



Speaking of Twelfth Night, the plans are set and we are looking at 84 Members and Guests joining us on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Bill Sykes and John Sgammatto have done a fine job and I know we will all have had a great time.

On a sad note, we lost one of our senior members with the passing of Ernie McGrath. Ernie became a member of the Old Colony Club back

in June of 1961. Even though he was not able to join us that much recently, he thoroughly enjoyed himself when he was there. My thank you to those who were able to make it to his wake and or funeral service. I believe there were about twenty of you.

Another of our senior members is laid up with a broken hip. I have been informed that John Talcott had fallen and broke his hip. Our best wishes to John for a speedy recovery. I had to chuckle during our Forefathers parade when as we were reforming for the march back to the Club, a voice was heard requesting the band to play slower as some of the older members could not keep up the pace. The trouble was John was setting the pace and a lively pace it was.

Mark June 25<sup>th</sup> on your calendars, as that is the date for our annual Clarks Island trip. The tide will be right and

*Continued page 3*

## BROTHERS IN ARMS-CONTINUED

BOB COLE

*"20th Maine" had saved the Union flank at Gettysburg in the fight at Little Round Top. He had been hit six times during the War, the most recent wound almost killing him at the siege of Petersburg. Who better to ease Americans out of their collective misery than these two heroes? Their meeting at the end of hostilities, done with equal measures of gallantry and sorrow, should be part of the understanding of every American.*

*Chamberlain later recalled that as the old enemy marched up the road to the appointed place, their battle flags leading them as always, he felt a sense of brotherhood wash over him, "waking memories that bound us together as no other bond." They advanced in broken shoes and blanket-rolls, their weathered gear riding on spines firmed by hardship. Their idealism was real, but a tarnished thing, roused by a Cause that could never quite muffle the rattle of chains. The majority of these brave men had no slaves, of course. Most were resolute in their poverty, stoical and unassuming. Some few, though, were of a class fitted out with all the refinements of chivalry, and all the contradictions of Southern culture. As they all passed up this road toward defeat, they hardly knew what to expect.*

*The Union troops waiting in their ranks were solemn. With forage caps shading grouchy eyes, and jaws clenched with hurtful memories, their ranks were loose and silent. A stern quiet covered all the Yankee blue, the hush broken only by the whisper of guide-ons, and the scuffing route step of the approaching Southern column. They watched the enemy coming on, a bit restless to be sure, but there was no gloating. There were no drum rolls or bugle calls. No bands played. No hollering, No fist pumping or curses".*

## Club Connection

The following 2004 Executive Board Members are listed for your convenience. If you need information about the Club, one of the upcoming events, Club Membership List or if you've lost your Key, call or E-Mail us.

|           |                 |              |                      |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------|
| President | Don Brown       | 508-830-9420 | debrown@adelphia.net |
| 1st VP    | Bill Rudolph    | 508-747-4271 | wrudolph41@aol.com   |
| 2nd VP    | Kevin McKenna   | 508-746-7326 | meggy1234@aol.com    |
| Secretary | Bernie Sampson  | 508-746-9589 | bsampson@110.net     |
| Treasurer | Dennis Stinnett | 508-746-4297 | gstinnett@msn.com    |

**Building Committee**

*Bill Rudolph*



Due to some good luck in scheduling and a brake in the weather we were able, thanks to the "Team McKenna" to replace the ancient sewer line, which was almost completely clogged with grease. The whole process only took a couple of days and we were all set for Twelfth Night.

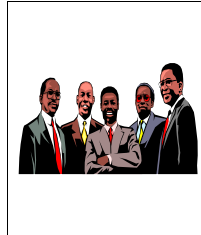
**For the Good of the Club**

**John Talcott** has been hospitalized with a broken hip caused by a recent fall. He welcomes visitors.

**Jaan Roht** was recently hospitalized. He had to undergo emergency angioplasty and is currently recovering at home. Calls are welcome.

**Dexter Olsson** recently had surgery. He is also recuperating at home. Calls are welcome but he is not ready to receive guests as of this writing.

**Ed David** was reported to have undergone emergency bypass surgery last week. His condition is unknown. We wish him well.



**President's Message**

*Continued from page 2*

Skip is already lining up our speaker for the evening. Dan Finn has agreed to line up an evening at the Pop's this spring. I will try to pin him down soon with a date. I will also have a date for you soon for the Annual Clambake and for Past Presidents Night. The Executive Committee will be having our meetings early in the evening on the regular monthly meeting nights unless there is a major issue to discuss. If there is a need for a longer meeting it will be held on the Wednesday prior to the monthly meeting.

I am looking forward to an enjoyable year and be sure to bring along your singing voices on Friday nights.

Your servant

Don Brown

**BROTHERS IN ARMS**

*C O N T I N U E D*

*Only a silence bent earthward by the shared experience of combat. As the enemy approached Chamberlain could feel, "an awed stillness. . . as if it were the passing of the dead."*

*The mounted Gordon, with his elegant goatee and a gold-laced uniform a bit worse for wear, reined in his horse in front of the Union commander. Tension mounted as the hard-bitten troops of the Army of Northern Virginia reached the first Federal units drawn up alongside the road. Suddenly, Chamberlain shouted! He called his men to Attention. The order was passed down the line, and sent rippling through the formation by company commanders and First Sergeants. Then there was a crash of calloused hands on steel and wood as the Federal troops completed "Present arms!" Gordon was momentarily startled, but quickly gave an order that echoed down the southern files. Shoulders were drawn back and chins elevated, and as each of the Confederate units marched by they returned the salute. At the moment when the lead "Stars and Bars" passed the Federal Color Guard, the Confederate general pulled his mount's head around slowly so that he could face the Union commander and his staff. As Chamberlain described the moment,*

*"Gordon, wheeled his horse, facing me, touching him gently with the spur so that the animal slightly reared and, as he wheeled, horse and rider made one motion, the horse's head swung down with a graceful bow, and General Gordon dropped his sword-point to his toe in salutation".*

*Concluded on page 4*

*Bob Cole is a frequent contributor, OCC Member and retired History Professor. He has traveled the world and enjoys adding a bit of humor to history.*

**Ernest McGrath**

**1913-2003**

***Club Member 1961-2003***

**ERNIE MCGRATH, A LIFE MEMBER OF OUR CLUB, A LIFE MEMBER OF THE KIWANIS AND A LONG TIME MEMBER OF THE PLYMOUTH COUNTRY CLUB DIED ON DECEMBER 20, 2003 AT THE NEWFIELD NURSING HOME.**

**HE BEGAN HIS CAREER IN THE RESTAURANT BUSINESS IN THE LATE 1930'S CATERING CLAM BAKES ON THE PLYMOUTH WATER FRONT. AFTER SERVICE IN THE NAVY, HE AND HIS PARTNER BECAME FAMOUS SERVING BAKES TO THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS WHO CAME BY TRAIN. FROM THIS BEGINNING THEY LEASED LAND FROM THE TOWN AND OPENED DEARN & MCGRATH'S RESTAURANT WHICH BECAME A FAVORITE FOR TOURISTS AND TOWN PEOPLE. HE RETIRED AND SOLD IT SEVERAL YEARS AGO. IT IS NOW THE EAST BAY GRILLE**

**ERNIE AND HIS WIFE ROSE TRAVELED ALL OVER THE WORLD WITH THEIR GOOD FRIENDS, MEMBER AL BELLANGER AND HIS WIFE RUTH. ERNIE AND AL WERE AVID GOLFERS WHO TRAVELED AROUND THE COUNTRY PLAYING AT FAMOUS GOLF COURSES. ERNIE'S MANY FRIENDS WILL MISS HIS ALWAYS GOOD HUMOR, HIS STORIES OF PEOPLE IN THE TOWN AND HIS FRIENDLY SMILE.**

**WITH GOD'S GRACE MAY HE REST IN PEACE.**

## Old Colony Club

PO Box 1774  
Plymouth, MA 02362

Phone: 508-746-0110



### A Gentleman's Club

*An establishment for social  
meetings and other non  
profitable purposes*

*We're on the WEB*  
[www.oldcolonyclub.org](http://www.oldcolonyclub.org)

#### Brothers in Arms *Continued from page 3*

*It took time for the Confederates to stack arms and give up their colors, many of the men nearly overcome by emotion. All the while the Union soldiers maintained their discipline. Remembering the day, Gordon later noted that not a few of them were also weeping. Before long, the fighting men of both armies knew there was no room for lasting hatred. They had seen too much, and eventually understood that they had a new nation to build. As the years unfolded, however, one assumes there was only delight in those aged veterans who were given years enough to see the creation of the U. S. Army's 29th "Blue and Gray" Division during World War I. And what might they have thought to witness it coming ashore in Normandy in 1944? What might Chamberlain and Gordon have said had they been able to see the tempered goodness of their old comradeship living still, helping to kick Naziism back into the cave it crawled out of?*  
BC

Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5

## Twelfth Night 2004 continued

John Sgammato

The petit fours were provided by Montilio's Bakery in Brockton; thanks go to *Matt Adams* for acquiring them. *Grace Sykes* made the coconut macaroons, *Annette Talbot* and *Kalina Vendetti* made the almond macaroons and the incredibly delicate butter cookies. The cakes were by *Ellen Brown* and *John Sgammato*; the latter also produced the popular Nesselrode Pudding. In the Smoking Room, two fine ports and a plate of walnuts were joined by a magnificent Stilton from the pantry of *Richmond Talbot*. Also in that room was a special treat of admittedly limited appeal: a rare and exceptional Chartreuse VEP was made available by *Paul Morgan*, who fully regretted he had prior obligations in sunny Florida while we braved the six-degree January night!

In addition to the above-mentioned delicacies, there were a number of items both peculiar and mundane in dishes throughout the house. If any of them especially struck your fancy, John may be able to identify it for you.

The champagne for the toast was provided as a special gift of incoming *President Captain Don Brown*. His generosity made a

number of other delicacies available that would surely have exceeded the humble budget of this event, which was entirely paid for by the attendees. Not only did the event require no financial support from the club, but in fact it returned a small sum to the club. That so much was available to so many, for such a comparatively small expenditure per guest, was possible only through the kind labors and material generosity of so many members and their spouses. It is this spirit of community and camaraderie that makes the *Old Colony Club* so special, and that ensures a propitious start to the new year!



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*Editors note: The House Committee Chairman John Sgammato and the Twelfth Night Committee, headed by Bill Sykes, did an excellent job coordinating this annual event. Everyone who attended has commented this was the best Twelfth Night event yet. Thank you to all who helped make it happen!!!*