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April 2011

Traditions and Records:

**Norwood Cove, Southwest Harbor, Greening Island, Manset, Seawall
Southwest Harbor Historical Society**

- Phil Whitney, President
- Janet Patton, Vice President
- Wayne Patton, Treasurer
- Aimee Jellison, Secretary

Board of Directors

- John Burnham
- Becky Burnham
- Kathe Falt
- Bruce Komusin
- Bernie Mauger
- Fred Pinkham
- Diana Pinkham
- Warren Worcester
- Bob Davis
- Karen Craig
- Rebecca Carlson
- Ralph Stanley
- Joe Marshall
- Jack Gilley

Donations in Memory of

Eddie Reed by Beth Reed

Mary Frances Spurling Birlem by Lynne Birlem

Visit us at: www.SWHHS.org

April 2011



Ozzie Harper walks down the Seawall Road with his two oxen. The house in the middle is 387 Seawall Road, currently owned Paul Vermilyn. Ozzie owned a farm further down the road. The oxen were often used to move buildings and to plow gardens.

Presidents Report

This issue of the SWH Historical Society "Sou'west Voyage" is perhaps the most historic of any we have published. After months of searching, we have finally found a home for our museum. In cooperation with the SWH Chamber of Commerce, we are renting joint spaces from Harbor House in the old schoolhouse. We could not be happier. The location is the most perfect in the entire town - centrally located, easily accessible by tourists and residents, adequate parking, an historic building filled with personal memories for many of us, suitable space for setting up displays of our growing collection of artifacts, and room enough for program presentations.

As many of our readers know, we have spent several years exploring the town and talking with people, looking for an available, suitable, affordable site which could meet our needs. The Historical Society had very little money to invest, and there were meetings where we sometimes were quite discouraged, believing the odds were against us to ever find any suitable place. But we never gave up - we kept searching - and support from town organizations and individuals seemed to grow.

Then, in late 2010, the Chamber of Commerce approached us with an offer to sub-lease part of their rented building, which we accepted. Several months later, Harbor House began implementing plans to vacate the in-town schoolhouse location, and offered rental space to outside organizations. The Chamber was able to curtail their building lease, and invited us to join them in their move. We found ourselves departing the old location on April 1st and immediately moving into the former schoolhouse.

I can imagine the the spirits of Mr. Johnson, Miss Robbins, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Hamblen, and many others former long-time teachers are still present in the building. I believe they would be especially happy that we'll be bringing back the memories, not only of old school days, but of Southwest Harbor overall, in the coming years at this location.

We are now entering a new era for the SWH Historical Society, and we look forward in future years to providing quality educational exhibits and entertaining programs describing the people, events, & places that made SWH the place it is today.

Amidst all the excitement, planning for the 2011 Summer Program Series continued. We have confirmed Ralph Stanley & Phil Whitney - Steamboat Era in SWH for August, and Wayne and Janet Patton - SWH

Grocery Stores for October. Other possibilities as we go to press are: 1) Jack Gilley - American Legion in SWH, 2) Acadia National Park - Jesuits on Fernald Point, 3) John Burnham & Bernie Mauger - Visit of the Russian Ship "Cimbria", 4) Gilley Museum History, 5) WWII near SWH, Please watch for newspaper notices as our program season develops.

We welcome aboard new Board of Directors member Jack Gilley. Jack is a lifelong resident of the Manset / Seawall area of town, and has attended many meetings and programs of the Historical Society over the years. He has been instrumental in the success of the two Pemetic High School Sports Memory Nights, and has contributed dozens of hours in helping compile the pending Manset / Seawall History Photo Book, which is due out later this Summer.

Spring also brings the seasonal migration northward of several of our Directors: Bob Davis, Bernie Mauger, John & Becky Burnham, and Becky Carlson. Their presence is sorely missed during the long winter months, and their arrival home always contributes towards renewed enthusiasm and energy for our group (not to mention numerous historical anecdotes and laughs during our meetings.)

We should recognize the important contribution Director Karen Craig is making to the Historical Society. She has assumed responsibility for conducting interviews with older members of our community to record their memories and anecdotes of life in SWH over the years. In some instances, depending on the wishes of the interviewee, she videotapes the interviews. In other circumstances, she transcribes the interviews. Recent "subjects" have been Jack Gilley and Tommy Newman. She has a long list of possible candidates to contact in the future.

I should also mention that Director and "Technical Specialist" Bruce Komusin assists Karen during videotape sessions whenever possible, and has proven invaluable supervising the taping of our regular summer program series over the years.

Finally, the new challenge of developing and operating our new museum facility will require additional funding levels, a steady income in future years. Some income derives from your memberships in the SWH Historical Society. Other amounts come from individual gifts. We are planning a fund raising initiative to help pay our rental costs, museum display enhancement, and expand our programming and outreach to the community. For example, it would be especially rewarding to provide historical presentations to the school kids on a regular basis, to give them an appreciation of who they are, where they live, and the rich history that has happened all around them. Janet Patton and Becky Carlson will be preparing a fundraising letter to be distributed in the near future.

We hope you will take time to consider how much SWH Historical Society has accomplished in six short years, and how many wonderful memories of our town have been presented and preserved. We have a great group of dedicated people making this happen. We look forward to an exciting future based on an adventurous past. We hope you will join us in our on-going "Sou'west Voyage".

Phil Whitney, President

Membership

This is the second issue of the Sou'West Voyager for 2011. We again would like to thank everyone for their continued support and hope you are enjoying our newsletter. A reminder to everyone that dues for 2011 are due in January. Your dues are what helps to keep us going. There is a membership form in every newsletter, so be sure to fill it out and send it in now while it is fresh in your mind. If you are a new member, please be sure to fill out all information on the membership form.

Plans for Programs For The Summer Season 2011

We now have our summer programs tentatively set:

May-The History of the American Legion in Southwest Harbor

June 15-To be announced

July 20-Wendell Seavey talks about fishing

August 17-Ralph Stanley & Phil Whitney-Tells about the Steamboat Era in Southwest Harbor

September-To Be Announced

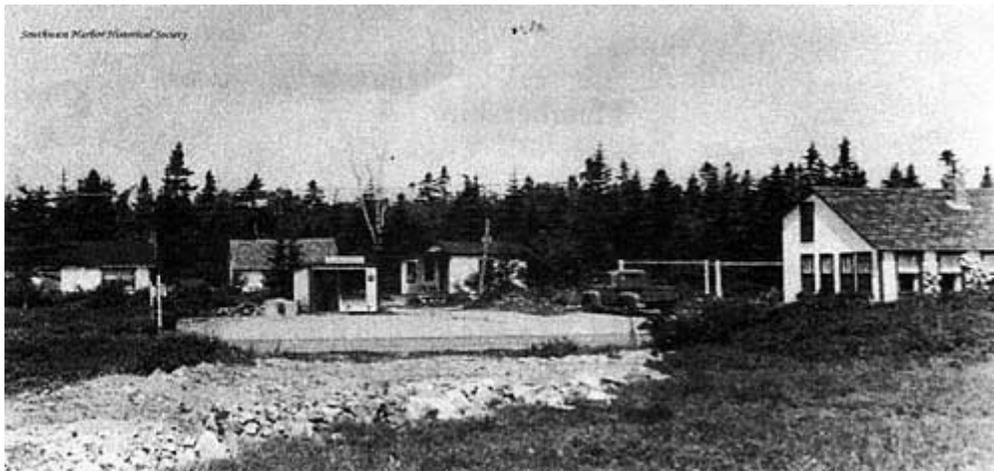
October 19-Southwest Harbor Grocery Stores

ALL PROGRAMS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE PAPERS AND ON OUR WEB SITE

Please write to us either through the email address at swhistory@yahoo.com or write to us at PO Box 272, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679

From the Archive Collections Committee:

If you have something that would help preserve the history of Southwest Harbor and can part with it, please let the Historical Society know. We are now in our new home and have much more room to store archives.



The building to the right is the original Seawall Dining Room, run by Ruth Amiro. We know the picture is after 1945 when the Amiros bought the property. The little building in the center was the take out stand operated by Lizzie Moore Young.

Where and When?



The answer will be in the next issue of The Voyage.

Did You Know?

Did you know that a newspaper was published in Southwest Harbor? It was called the Island Breeze and it was edited by Clarence A. Moore, who ran a printing business. It came out in the summer months and the subscription price was 50 cents. It contained local news such as: "What might have been a fatal accident but for the timely assistance ... when Capt. E.H. Stanley and Miss Florence Mason of Manset upset the row boat they were in as they were about to start for home. Capt King of the Market and the officers of the Golden Rod hearing the cries and locating the same were not long in rescuing the infortunate bathers from their watery surroundings."

Advice was scattered throughout the news. "Bicycle riders should attend strictly to business and not attempt to bow when riding upon the sidewalks." Doesn't it make you wonder what prompted that piece of advice!

An editorial pertaining to the keeping the streets of the town clean included: "...When you have worn the taps off from those shoes and the uppers are getting full of holes and you have decided to call upon some of the stores whose advertisements you have read in the Breeze, don't throw those old shoes out to be kicked around the streets and walks. But put them out of sight, even if you have to get a boat and take them off in the harbor and sink them with rocks..." Throwing shoes into the streets or sinking them in the harbor. Can you imagine!?!

Advertising included: "Come and see the gents traveling cases and new line of ladies' yacht capes at J.T.R. Freeman's..."

What entertainment it would be to read these papers, so much history would be included in them.

If anyone has any copies of this paper and would like to donate them for our archives, or if you have one and would be willing to let us make a copy of it, we would appreciate receiving them.

Thanks

Thanks to those who have provided photos for our archives. These photos have been a great help to us. Photos could be originals that can be given to the Society, copies of originals, or photos we are allowed to scan and then return. We appreciate all of the photos received.

Our Manset/Seawall book is coming along quickly. We have started chasing deeds on each property and have found this a great wealth of information. With the help of Bob Davis and Lynne Birlen, we hope to have it completed soon. Stay tuned as we get closer to the publication of our book.

Memories

May 1 is May Day. Now-a-days there are a lot of people who do not know the significance of May Day. Traditionally, it was a day to celebrate the coming of spring. In some countries it was a day to celebrate the working people. I remember it as a day when we took May baskets we had made out of half-pint size milk cartons, decorated with crepe paper, filled with "colored grass" and then little candies, like jelly beans and Peeps. Then we would go to our friends, set the basket on the step, knock and then run. Our friend would come to the door and chase us. Sounds a little silly as an adult, but it was a lot of fun as a kid and many of us have great memories of the giving of May baskets.

Send us your memories. Your memories help others remember part of their youth through you and it is great fun!

Items Recently Donated to the Society

Merle Cousins-a Pemetic Jacket and hat

A photograph of the 1936-37 Girls Basketball Squad and a photograph of the 1935-36 Girls Basketball Squad from Buddy Sawyer

A copy of a picture of the Stanley Wharf from Harold Beal

Two copies of the Stanley Wharf fire from George Jellison

"Songs of Hope" from the Manset Union Church dated 1926 and a Claremont handout from 2000 from Muriel Davisson

News from the past

"Hawaii Village Bears Maine Man's Name" Southwest Harbor, Oct 14--The model village which the Hawaiian Pineapple Company is building near Wahiawa to house its 3000 employees will bear the name of a Maine man. The village has been called Whitmore as a memorial to John L. Whitmore, a native of Southwest Harbor, pioneer member of the company, it's former vice president and a director from Nov. 18, 1903, until his death April 30, 1933.

Newspaper Clipping-no date given.

John Whitmore was born and grew up in Southwest Harbor. He started a lobster canning company on a pier at the end of Lawler Lane. He mastered the art of canning food and eventually moved to Hawaii to work with John Dole and put his knowledge of canning to work canning pineapple. Obviously he was a great success at what he was doing, staying with the Hawaiian Pineapple Company for thirty years. Whitmore Village is on the island of Oahu and has a population today of over 4,100 people.

In Memoriam:

We are saddened by the loss of several members of our community.

Olive Seavey Kelley	February 2, 2011
Donald O. Worcester	February 7, 2011
William R. Marshall	March 14, 2011
Freddie Pinkham	April 20, 2011

Recipes from the Past

This is a new section we are trying and we would appreciate your input on it. Is this something you would enjoy seeing continued? If it is, we would appreciate old time recipes being sent to us, along with the name of the person who the recipe originated with.

Crisp Oatmeal Cookies

1½ cup brown sugar	¾ cup shortening, melted
½ cup sour milk	½ tsp salt
¾ tsp vanilla	1½ cup flour
¾ tsp soda	3 c. oatmeal

Mix in order given. Shape into small balls and flatten. Allow plenty of room to spread. Bake at 375 degrees for 15 minutes.

This recipe belonged to Violet Frost

Clam Patties

- 1 pint clams - squeeze black from bellies, chop necks & bellies, or grind
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 3 Tbsp cream or milk
- Add 1 cup bread crumbs
- 2 Tbsp flour
- ½ small onion, grated

- ½ tsp baking powder
- salt & pepper

Let rest for 10-20 minutes. Fry in greased, almost smoking, hot fry pan, like pancakes. They are sort of like clam hamburgers... really good! Be sure to get a good brown crust before turning. I've tried these with ground sea clams, but they're really better with shucked steamers... but, woe and alas... Where can you find them these days! We always used a cast iron skillet.

Corning Your Own Beef, Pork, Venison or spare ribs?

Select a container large enough to hold submerged meat.

Dilute enough salt in water to float a potato.

Add 2-3 bay leaves and some peppercorns.

Wash meat, submerge, weigh down with something like a scrubbed piece of granite or brick or tiles, etc. Store in a cool place for at least 3 days or as long as the winter... always covered in brine. To use, wash, soak in fresh water, bring to the boil and discard until the broth tastes fresh. Cook until tender.

The two recipes above are from Lynne Birlem. They were from her grandmother, Mary Frances Spurling Birlem by way of her, Lynne's mother, Margaret Mulholland Birlem.

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