

Presidents Report:

President Message: The SWHHS Summer Program Series continued to provide many enjoyable and worthwhile evenings to fans of local history this season. The June presentation was hosted by Director John Burnham, and offered a nostalgic look back at SWH in the late 1800's through the eyes of Jessie Parker, whose notes of the era were published in book format in 2010. Also, in conjunction with the annual Pemetic High School Reunion held in late June, a second Pemetic Sports Night was presented at Pemetic High School. Director Fred Pinkham again coordinated this extravaganza, ably assisted by many fellow devotees. The night, playing to a packed house, featured a reunion of many former Pemetic sports stars, a "once-in-a-lifetime" collection of Pemetic sports memorabilia, a slide show of school people and events of by-gone days, and assorted stories and humorous anecdotes. Then, moving right along, the July program focused on the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) presence in SWH during the 1930's Depression era years. ANP Ranger Ann Warner presented the program, supplemented with photographs from the Patton Collection. August featured a talk by Abbe Museum representatives on Indians in the SWH area. Our September show was presented as part of our Annual Meeting Night, and saw representatives of Friends of Acadia lecturing on the History and Restoration of the Beech Hill Fire Lookout Tower. The 2010 season ended with a well-attended and informative slide presentation produced by Wayne & Janet Patton on the History of Manset & Seawall. Our first publication, the Jessie Parker Diaries, has been an unqualified success, and sold out its initial printing. An additional (100) copies has been ordered in time for Christmas shopping. They are sold at Carroll's Drugstore. Work has continued steadily on the our next publication, a Photo History of Manset / Seawall. Meetings have been held each month with area residents who have enthusiastically provided huge amounts of background history and anecdotes. We anticipate this project will go to press in late Spring, in time for the Summer rush. Becky Carlson, our long-time Secretary, stepped down from her position in November, as she and husband Bruce retired from the SWH Chamber of Commerce and moved south to Sanford, Me. for the winter months. Becky was the unsung coordinator of day-to-day SWHHS operations, often working behind the scenes to accomplish tasks, and insuring our organization held together and kept moving forward. Becky will remain on the Board of Directors and plans to return to SWH for the summer seasons. We welcome Aimee (Jellison) Williams who graciously agreed to assume the duties of Secretary. Our search for a Historical Society home and museum continues. A special subcommittee was established to facilitate this effort and insure no possible opportunities are overlooked. With the Carlsons' departure, the urgency of finding more permanent quarters has increased. Negotiations with the Chamber of Commerce for possible future use of their building continue as this article goes to press. Our quest has now attracted the attention of the local media. Phil Whitney, and Janet & Wayne Patton sat down for an hour-long interview with the Bar Harbor Times to discuss SWHHS goals & objectives- where we come from, what currently is happening, and where we want to go in the near future. The article should be appearing shortly. One final observation for the year: A number of our Directors normally depart for warmer climes in late Autumn, not returning until Spring. This sometimes leaves us short-handed to accomplish all the goals and projects we think important to the existence of our organization. We struggle along, but more volunteers are always welcomed. Preparation of the Manset / Seawall book, researching opportunities for a museum, conducting historical interviews of our older citizens are just some of the many ways you can actively help out. How about making a New years Resolution to help out our deserving organization? Please feel free to call myself (244-5933) or Vice - President Janet Patton (244-1104) or simply drop by to our monthly Business Meeting (First Mondays at 7 PM.) You don't have to become a Director, or even a member of SWHHS - simply have an interest in preserving the history of your town in some way you will find meaningful and enjoyable. On Behalf of the Board of Trustees, I Wish You a Very Merry Christmas and Fulfilling New Year.

Phil Whitney - President .



Seawall Naval Station during World War I. This station was torn down after the war when the “War to end all wars” was over. A new one was built for World War II and part of it was moved to Southwest Harbor and is part of the American Legion Hall.

Plans for Programs For The Summer Season 2011

We are in the process of setting up our programs for the summer and we would love to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer or who would like to offer suggestions for a program. Please write to us either through the email address at swhhistory@yahoo.com or write to us at PO Box 272, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679

If you have any comments on these programs please let us know

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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:

Mail: P.O. Box 272 Southwest Harbor, ME 04679

Telephone: (207) 244-9264

E-Mail: swhhistory@yahoo.com

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This picture is a postcard of the Wesley Ave Methodist Church which was located on Wesley Ave where C. A. Lewis shop is now located. The church was torn down and the house is currently owned by Chet Lewis.

Where and When?



Are you a Richardson or descended from a Richardson? We are...

Researching my Galley family led me back to the five MDI Richardson brothers. From this I learned that my Stephen Richardson (the second one) and John's Thomas Richardson, were brothers. Both men had Patriotic Service in the Revolutionary War after they came to MDI. Many people have joined the DAR and SAR based on their service.

More work revealed their graves, minus cemetery stones, had been recognized by the SAR for Thomas and the DAR for Stephen years ago. Crockett Point in Bernard, has a small cemetery where Richardsons and family members were buried. Stephen lived in Bernard and Thomas lived in Bass Harbor.

Feeling that 200 years after their deaths, it would be most appropriate to order the free government cemetery stones to remember them and reflect on their service, we began the applications. Proof exists as to their burials and those of their wives, two Gott sisters. Applications were prepared and documentation added. I approached the Tremont Historical Society, and met with them. Because the men lived there and are buried in that town, our historical society will jointly follow through on plans to honor these men in summer of 2011. This ceremony may be part of the Celebrate 250 planned for next year. Plans are being made. Dunns' Monuments in Ellsworth will receive the government stones when they arrive and set them for us. The applications have been approved and the stones should have been shipped by now.

Watch for details of a ceremony. We are so pleased that after 200 years these men will finally have cemetery stones. So many of us are their descendants and so we honor them.

Becky Dow Burnham and John Burnham

The Pematic High School/Southwest Harbor Sports Show

We had a great turnout at our Pematic high school/Southwest Harbor sports show on June 25th at the Pematic school. There was a terrific amount of memorabilia on hand and the audience participation was fantastic. It was great seeing old friends and making new ones. Many thanks to Jack Gilley and Jim Carroll for all their hard work putting things together. Our next step is producing a Pematic/Southwest Harbor sports history book. Anybody that has any ideas, photos, uniforms, newspaper articles, box scores, or anything else that you would like to see included in the book, please send them to Fred Pinkham 273 Seawall Road, Southwest Harbor, Maine 04679. Or e-mail me at pinkham396@adelphia.net Thank you and we hope to see you all next summer. Fred Pinkham



Richardson – Richardson – Richardson - Galley – Weed/Woods –
Dow – Burnham – Burnham – Burnham and Raven

Knowlton – Knight –

Genealogy is a passion of mine – I caught the ‘bug’ from my Father as a child. How does this connect to the MDI Richardson families? My Aunt, Evelyn Knight Harper (1898-1997) of Rockland ME, told me how as a three year old, she went with her Mother to Bass Harbor. She despaired having to sit on that prickly horsehair couch on Sunday afternoons visiting Amos Galley, brother of Isephina. In our family we had often heard of my Grandmother Knight’s Grandmother, Isephina Woods, who had helped raise her grandchildren.

Having married John in 1969 and his being descended from multiple MDI families led to a search of the area for a Galley family. Not Gilley, but Galley.

Research led to the discovery that the original Stephen Richardson and wife had a son Stephen. Stephen #2 and wife had William Richardson, and they had Hannah who married John Galley.

I’ve learned that Billy Richardson brought home a young boy from the Salem Massachusetts Poor House, to help him as a mariner on MDI, named John Galley. He was born about 1782. And John eventually married Billy Richardson’s daughter Hannah Richardson, who was born about 1795. John and Hannah Richardson Galley had 14 children, with a daughter, a twin born c. 1838, named Eisephenia M. Richardson. She was called Isephina. She married a John Weed who died at sea. She moved to Rockland and owned a boarding house there. She met and married a John Woods next. A daughter Evelyn Judith Weed, who died young, married Franklin Knowlton of Warren. Their daughter Emma Maria b. 1880 married Ernest Elmer Knight of Lincolnville Center. Their daughter Alma married Earle Samuel Dow of Rockport. I am their daughter. We have a son, David (wife his wife, Hien Pham), who have a son, Huy. We have a daughter Susan (husband Jud Raven) who have two daughters, Sarah Isephina, and Elizabeth Adeline.

Our families have quite often followed other family names when naming new children. Sarah was a sister of Isephina and another sister was Adeline. So little ISA is named for her Great Grandmother’s Great Grandmother! ADDY is named for her Great Grandmother’s Great Grandmother’s sister. Tradition.....

Becky Dow Burnham and John Burnham

Sources: MDI Vitals, Rockland ME vitals, and other documents.



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