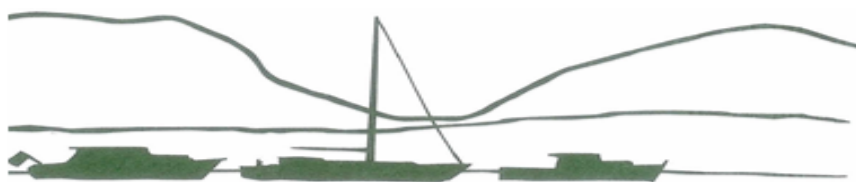


## Southwest Harbor Historical Society November 2021



# *The Sou'west Voyage*

Norwood Cove   Greening Island   Southwest Harbor   Manset   Seawall

### **A Brief History of the Moorings Inn**

G. McGill

Mount Desert Island is home to many well kept treasures from Maine's past, with some of our buildings having seen not only the founding of our state, but the founding of our great Nation as a whole. Being around for more than a couple hundred years certainly has its perks and having a location that draws locals and travelers alike has helped its Innkeepers keep this building's history alive and well!

While the building we lovingly call The Moorings lives a life as a humble coastal Inn now, it got its start as a personal house in 1765. Built by a Dutch Captain & sailmaker who immigrated here for the ship building trade, Andrew Tucker Sr did more than just build a structure to last through hundred years of Maine's harsh weather--- he also played a part in the Island's independence from England: On March 17, 1789, at the house of Abraham Somes, he and 30 others pledged fealty to the commonwealth of Massachusetts where they abjured all faith, subjection, and obedience to the King of Great Britain.

*Cont. Page 4*



*Photo courtesy of SWH Historical Society Archives, circa 1800's*

## **Presidents Message**

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Since the SWHHS again did not have any events for the community this year due to the pandemic, I am pleased to share with you that we have been busy in 2021 with projects. Many of these projects were made possible with the ongoing support of our members and community. The steeple project was completed in May, with the bell being permanently removed, as we were advised that the weight of the bell was too heavy to maintain the integrity of the repaired steeple. You will read more about the bell project in this newsletter. The S.O.S. (Save Our Steeple) campaign remains open to the end of the year, as we are still short of recouping the monies spent on the \$135,000 repair. The stained-glass windows that were part of the project have been restored and are back in place.

The updating of our archival collection area in the Gleaners Hall has been completed with several new units of shelving, locking file cabinets, a locking storage cabinet and a bookcase. These were purchased with funds from a generous donor whom we thank. The updating of the collection area delayed the work on verifying the inventory of our collection that we will continue working on this winter.

The stage area in the former sanctuary has been removed, with the floor replaced so we now have a level floor in the entire room. This will help us as we prepare to have exhibits of our collection in that room.

As you will read in this newsletter, we have some exciting news to share about newly donated items for our collection!

Aimee Williams

207-441-7251

[aimeewilliams363@gmail.com](mailto:aimeewilliams363@gmail.com)

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## **Membership Dues**

You can now start sending in your dues 2022! We look forward to receiving your dues so that we can continue mailing you the newsletter. We also offer the option of receiving the newsletter by email, with a spot on the blue cover page for your email address.

**Please fill in the email address only if you wish to receive future newsletters that way. Those who elect email delivery will still receive newsletters by regular mail because we enclose return envelopes with that mailing for your convenience.**

**Officers:** Aimee Williams (**P**), Leslie Watson (**VP**), Beth Geiser (**Tres**), Grace Klausky (**Sec**), ; **Board Members:** Anne Welles, Susan Buell, Merlin Dilly, Julie Fernald, Bernice Klausky, Clifford Noyes, Brenda Lawson, Timothy Stanley, Ralph Stanely, Emeritus

## Donations

*Alice Reid Abbott Phyllis Acadia  
Alexandra & David Andrews  
Russell & Lynne Bradford  
Natalie & Richard Bush  
Charles & Paula Deafenbaugh  
Marilyn Farley  
Joanne & Richard Furst  
Lydia Goetze  
Eric & Kate Henry  
Steven & Nancy Homer  
Lee & Anne Judd  
Patrick & Ellen Mitchell  
Edward O'Leary  
Bruce & Ann Pomeroy  
Louise Riemer & W.M Locke  
Jim & Celeste Sawyer  
Richard Smith  
Charles Stanhope  
Mark Stoler & Barbara Baker  
James & Mary Vekasi  
Rod & Lisa Woodford  
John & Margaret Kelly III  
Georgia A Tuttle, M.D  
Cora Olgyan & Alan Rosenquist  
David & Anne Benson  
Doug & Kim Storey  
Dalen & Elizabeth Mills  
Hattie A. & Fred C Lyman Trust  
Dennis Wint  
Diehl Family Fund  
George Jellison, Jr  
Lynne Birlem  
Linda & Stephen Merriam  
Barbara Campbell*

*Brenda Albers  
Kenneth Beal Mary Beal  
Ruth & Duane Braun  
Mary Clement  
Deborah Dyer  
Earle Farley  
Suzanne Goff  
Suzanne Pope Hayes  
Betsy Holtzman  
Kristen Hutchins  
Jane Kenney  
Loman & Lori Morneault  
C.W Eliot Paine  
John Potter  
Elenore Robbins  
Leigh Schmidt & Ruth Griffith  
George Soules & Janice Kenyon  
John Stanley  
Rick & Caren Litvin-Smith  
H. Leighton Wass  
Mark Worcester  
Barbara Campbell  
James & Sally Anne Kellogg  
Gene Walls  
Jennifer & T. Peterson-Waters  
Lee Spahr-Bush  
Spencer & Floy Ervin  
Jean Haurtiz  
Sam & Kate Lawrence  
Gray Family Fund  
Diana & Alan Amendt  
Maurice Joseph Marshall  
Anne Welles  
Kathe Newman*

*Richard Allen  
Elizabeth & Frederick Biebesheimer  
Mr & Mrs John Buell  
Adelheid Lamberty Crock  
Kenneth & Mary Evans  
Ruthann Fenton  
Jack Gilley  
Leslie & Ann Heilakka  
Nancy Holler  
Ruth Jellison  
Ellen & Vic Mercer  
Susan Newman  
Peter & Sarah Philbrook  
Henry Raup  
Robert & Cynthia Robinson  
Kirk & Nancy Smith  
Alan Spurling  
Tim Stanley  
Mark Sullivan & Ann Tikkanen  
Anne Welles  
Joseph & Mary Lou Zawecki  
Jack Gibbons  
Arlene Spurling  
Jack & Maggie Kelley  
Mary Clarke  
Sidney & Kenneth Salvatore  
Andy Cline  
Janet Strong & Robert Hoyt  
Mary & Keith Wozniak  
Rebecca Madeira Castle  
Robert & Karen Gross  
Nancy Wilder  
John Chadonnet*

## In Memory\Honor of

**Brenda Albers** - 45 Donations in memory of **Bruce Albers** + In memory of **Earle Overby**  
**Kyle & Johanna Harris + Lawrence & Meg Eaton** - In memory of **Jarvis Newman**  
**Elaine Fernald** - In memory of **Allen Fernald**  
**Stanley Gott** - In memory of **Sandra Norwood Gott**  
**Susan Pope Hayes** - In honor of **Jane Kenney**  
**Betsy Holtzman** - In memory of **Vicki Vandrell + David Norwood+ Charles Carroll**  
**Stephen & Stanely LaCount** - In memory of **Clarence LaCount**  
**Loretta Rogers** - In memory of **Jack Madore**  
**Elaine Spurling** - In memory of **Uldene Farrar**  
**Gerald & Jeffery Trimark** - In memory of **Wally Klausky**  
**Beth Reed** - In memory of **Jeffery Robert Reed**  
**Charles & Frances Johnson** - In memory of **Oscar, Inez, & Emery Krantz**  
**George Soules & Janice Kenyon** - In memory of **Jim Keene**  
**Wayne & Carol Strausbaugh** - In memory of **Dr & Mrs Louis B Jensen**  
**G. Bernice Klausky** - In memory of **Wallace Klausky**  
**John & Marianne Wellington** - In memory of **Margaret Wellington**  
**Ruth Jellison** - In memory of **Margaret Mitchell**  
**Aimee Williams** - In memory of **Edna Jellison + George Jellison Sr**  
**Jackie Young** - In memory of **Lurline Tuttle**  
**Julie & Cecil Fernald** - In memory of **Nettie Silva Smiley**  
**Jason Young** - In memory of **Manuel "Lucky" Young**  
**Mildred Chalmers** - In memory of **Lillian Ora Newman-Seavey**  
**Lynne Birlem** - In memory of **David E. Reed**  
**Edith Stanwood** - In memory of **Sandra Norwood Gott**

The Tucker family lived on this property, with Andrew Sr's sons finishing the Main House as their families grew--- though they had quite the land claim compared to what the property entails now: Thanks to a survey that was done while still under British rule, Mr. Tucker was able to prove he and his family established themselves prior to 1784 and were awarded 100 acres on top of what he already procured. While the Tucker family's land claim ended up being parcelled off by the 1840's, the house remains and a portion of the Main House structure is the oldest in town and one of the oldest on the island.

By 1820, Andrew Tucker Sr and his eldest son, Andrew Tucker Jr had passed away and Andrew Tucker Jr's wife, Jemima (Smallidge) Tucker owned the house (listed as head of household in 1820 census records!). From 1820 to 1845, Jemima and the families of her Brother's in Law (Andrew Tucker Sr's other sons, Zebediah, Nicholas, and Willam Tucker) lived here (Nicholas is still buried in the cemetery behind the SWH Historical Society). All of Andrew Sr's sons continued the family business of life at sea during their time in Manset--- being Captains and fishermen.

By 1845, the remaining Tucker family sold off the property parcels, and then the house to William Stanley and his young wife Mary Ann Stanley. Unfortunately, this young couple did not own the house long, as Mary Ann died in 1851 during childbirth at age 20, and William Stanely sold it soon after to Andrew Haynes that same year.

Andrew Haynes and his family lived and operated their businesses from the property and shoreline, with Andrew Haynes being a well established boat builder and fishing entrepreneur at the time--- so much so that the land became known as Hayne's Point until his death in 1896. While Andrew was a well established local in Tremont since 1830 given the census, his 2nd wife garnered much attention as well! Born Dorothea Albertina Wilhelmina Celeste Russ, she was the daughter of Ludwig Russ--- a magistrate of the Royal Brass Foundry of Prussia. Her homeland, her beauty, and her involvement in a particularly scandalous biography (at the time) of Captain Hadlock named "Gods Pocket", landed her to be known locally as the "Prussian Lady". While Andrew and his wife had 3 children, they outlived them all--- with Dorothea surviving her entire family.

After the Haynes family, James Parker, a master mariner and fisherman from New Gloucester, acquired the property and used it with the fishing structures and wharf the Haynes left to build up his own business. The Parker's business efforts lead the area to be called "Parkers Point" for a time, though the Parker business did not stick around long after James died in 1907.



*Photo copyright  
"The Hinckley Story"  
pg 14, 1938*



From 1910 - 1925, the house and property was used for many things and owned by many different people. It was everything from a hardware store, bank owned fishery wharf, to its first start as an Inn & teahouse in 1916.

However, big names garner big attention, and the next big name to come across and purchase the property was the Hinckley family! As quoted from Benjamin Hinckley in his book, "The Hinckley Story": " Because many boats moored in front of our new house, Mother named it "The Moorings" and the name has stayed with the property ever since" (*Chapter 3, pg 8*). Thanks to Ben and Henry Hinckley getting the Inn and what was to become the Moorings Inn Restaurant going by 1937, it changed hands yet a few more times until the current family was able to acquire the Inn from Morton Jenks in 1960.



*Lobster Bake on The Moorings Beach, copyright "The Hinckley Story" pg 14, 1938*

Leslie King, having worked for Morton Jenks in the restaurant and whose family owned and operated Inn's for some time, purchased the property after a fire took the family owned Dirigo Inn. Les and Betty King, being long time residents of the Island, ran The Moorings Inn with their family while raising their two children, Leslie and Story. Their daughter, Leslie, inherited her parents legacy as a 4th generation Innkeeper in 2008. She proudly operates the Inn as her parents would have, keeping as true to the building's roots as possible in today's modern age. Her family has owned the building over 60 years, their ownership topped only by the family that built it.

Being brief on the history of places such as this does a bit of a disservice to those who lived, loved, and made this building stand through the test of time that life and especially life on Maine's coast can be. Should you come across a rogue copy of Benjamin Hinckley's book "The Hinckley Story", we at the SWH Historical Society encourage you to give it a quick skim to see things from his perspective (and to read up on how they got rid of squatters back in 1925, pretty comical). Walking through the halls and rooms of the Main House is a close second for stepping back in time, though---as it's easy to see that the house never lost its feel of a home, and is even easier to see how the love of the people who have owned it and who continue to come back year after year to visit keep this home's heart beating. So the next 4th of July where we can all gather in Manset to watch the fireworks, now you know you can watch the show next to a building that's seen everything that led us to celebrating that holiday in the first place!

*(Information gathered from these sources: "The Hinckley Story" Benjamin Hinckley; Mount Desert Island/Southwest Harbor Historical census records; The Moorings Inn Website, [www.mooringsinn.com/history.html](http://www.mooringsinn.com/history.html))*

## **The Annual Meeting Minutes of the Southwest Harbor Historical Society**

The Annual Meeting of the society was held on September 22, 2021 at the Meeting House. Meeting called to order at 4:30 pm by President Aimee Williams.

Board Members present: Aimee Williams---President; Leslie Watson ---Vice President; Beth Gaiser--- Treasurer; Bernice Klausky--- Sect. Pro Temp.

Julie Fernald ZOOM members Anne Wells and Susan Buell

The minutes of the 2020 were not located. Julie moved we table the reading until next year's meeting. Motion seconded and passed.

Aimee gave a report on what our projects and accomplishments have been. This included the Steeple Fund (SOS) and the grant, the restoration of the stained glass window , and the intentions of the preservation of the bell. It is to be glass blasted and treated with a finishing agent. A covering is to be built for winter protection. These projects are under advisement at the moment. A new flooring has been installed and the old stage removed. Articles that came with the building when it was purchased and not needed were placed outside free for the taking and all was taken.

We are involved with History Trust. Anne is our representative and gave a report. Beth presented the treasurers report. It was filed .

The budget was presented. Julie moved that we accept the budget including the contract from Acadia Fuel . Seconded by Beth. Motion passed.

Julie gave a report on the selection of the three candidates as new board members. Those presented are Tim Stanley, Brenda Lawson, and Clifford Noyes. Anne moved we accept these persons as new board members. Beth seconded. Motion passed. New members were welcomed. Anne moved that we accept Leslie Watson as renewed for another 3 year term as her present term expired on this date. Motion seconded and passed.

Julie presented the slate of officers for election for the coming year.

Aimee Williams-----President

Leslie Watson-----Vice Pres.

Beth Gaiser-----Treasurer

Bernice Klausky-----Secretary

Anne moved this slate be accepted. Susan seconded. Motion passed.

A reminder that our monthly meetings will be on the SECOND Tuesday now.

Adjournment called for by Aimee. Seconded and passed. Meeting ended at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Bernice Klausky, Secretary

## **S.O.S Updates, and a Suprise!**

As we reported earlier, our steeple is repaired and painted---And none too soon!! Our contractor, Belden Morse, owner of "The Steeple People", reported the steeple quite possibly would not have made it through another winter.

Thanks to so many of you who contributed to the Save Our Steeple fund (S. O. S.), the steeple will continue to guide navigators for decades to come.

The steeple is repaired, but our fundraiser, S.O.S., fell short. The total cost of the project was \$135,000. A grant from the Maine Steeple Fund brought in \$60,000. So far, our generous community has contributed over \$47,000 . We thank you all!! To close out the steeple fundraising campaign, we must raise \$28,000.

In this season of giving, many organizations need our help. We hope you will include the S.O. S. fund in your giving plans. NO contribution is too small. We are very grateful for every gift!

Please send your tax deductible contribution to: The Southwest Harbor Historical Society, PO Box 272., Southwest Harbor, Maine 04679. Please make out your check to the SWH Historical Society, and write SOS or Steeple Fund in the memo line.

It is with loads of excitement that we report the bell has moved to a new home for a new outer shell! Chet Lewis and Sharon Lawson have offered to move the bell, build a granite site and return the bell to the new site here on the property once it gets its new outer shell. The bell was moved to Clayton Strout's shop to be worked on, with John Goodwin Jr donating the use and time of his boom truck and operator, Russell, for transportation. Once Clayton has finished his work, Chet will have the bell returned to its new home. They will return the bell to the Meeting house when it's ready. Chet Lewis and Sharon Lawson have donated the stone for the bell's new home, with Sharon having picked out the stone. Chet had help with cutting the stone and will have help from John Richardson with its placement once everything is done. The Southwest Harbor Historical Society can not thank everyone involved with this project enough for their kind gestures in the preservation of the Church's bell--- Thank you!

*Our Bell currently*





## **Summer Involvement**

We were able to have the opportunity to take part in the Pink Flamingo Festival parade this summer! The Society had a float in the parade on July 10th--- with our Vice President Leslie Watson, her grand-daughter Liana Johnson, and Thomas Adams, MD volunteering to ride in the float. The truck for the float was donated by Deb Sanner; wheelchair and other medical items were a loan from Mt Desert Nursing Service; banners donated by Cecil & Julie Fernald.



*Leslie Watson, and her grand-daughter Liana Johnson*



*Thomas Adams, MD*

## **Historical Donations & Acquisitions**

There are three new acquisitions to our collection that we are excited to share with you! An 1887 Colby & Stuart map of MDI and surrounding islands was donated this summer. It had been rolled up and needed professional attention in order to preserve and properly exhibit it. The map was taken to a professional conservator in Portland to be assessed and to give us an estimated cost of the restoration. The restoration requires very delicate work, which will take a few months. Then, after the restoration is completed by the conservator, we will have it mounted so it can hopefully be properly exhibited in our museum by summer of 2022. To help with the cost of this project, the SWHHS recently applied for a conservation grant;

Henry Lathrop Rand (1862-1945) Photo Album containing 56 Black & White photos with handwritten captions taken by Henry Lathrop Rand c. 1890's. Scenes of SWH (lighthouses, hotels, steamboat landing);

Speed Queen Mangler Iron-- This circa 1940-1950 mangler comes from the home of Admiral and Mrs. Ellsberg. It is donated by their granddaughter Ann Pollard Heilakka, who still spends the summer at the family home, Windswept on Clark Point in SWH. The mangler was used weekly by Emerline Williams who was the Ellsberg's maid. Some residents may remember Emerline as she was a summer staple in the summer community and frequently marched in the town parades dressed as a clown.



*Speed Queen Mangler,  
Closed and opened*