

## *The Sou'West Voyage*

Norwood Cove

Greening Island

Southwest Harbor

Manset

Seawall

Published three times yearly: February, June, and November

**FEBRUARY 2018**

---



Recently Lee Wilbur gave the historical society two doctor's bags that had belonged to his father, Dr. Herbert Wilbur, Jr. During the mid-40's to the mid-60's Dr. Wilbur had his office in what is now the Kingsleigh Inn. In a time when doctors still made home visits, the bags looked to be a travelling office/pharmacy. The gifts inspired research into the first doctor based on Mt. Desert Island, Dr. Kendall Kittredge. Kittredge was born in Billerica, Massachusetts, in 1773 and moved to Mount Desert in 1799.

The following information is taken from an address made by Dr. J. D. Phillips at a meeting of the Hancock County Medical Association. It is found in Nell Thornton's *Traditions and Records: Southwest Harbor and Somesville, Mount Desert Island, Maine, 1938*, p. 108.

“Here he had a large practice and had to travel on foot, horseback or by water for many years. He was a man of strong personality and a successful practitioner of the medicine of the day in which he lived. His practice not only included this island but extended to Trenton, Bluehill [sic] and Surry. It was the custom in the last two places when his services were needed, to light a bonfire on a certain point and it was recognized as the duty of someone on the western side of Mount Desert to get the message to the doctor as soon as possible after seeing the blaze. Then by boat or on horseback he would start out for the settlement and someone would be stationed along the road or at the landing place on the shore to direct him to the house where he was needed.

*(Cont'd on Page 3)*

Good times with good people, that is how I see our historical society meetings. I look forward to our monthly chats, the sharing of stories, pictures and names of residents not around anymore: The fun of mentioning a grocery store we shopped at in the '50's and hearing the list of all the others, vivid memories for many of us; the live deer that found himself in Trundy's Market (no one was happy about that, especially the deer); Elwell Trundy's garden produce outside shop in front of his house on Main Street; Marion Hayes keeping an eye on Main Street from her apartment over what used to be the post office. We use that term a lot—used to be.

Keeping in that vein, Lynne has started a timeline that we will be working on this winter, a line of what and when, things like when the Park Theater was built (1918-1919), when Harbor House began (1965), and when was the first Pemetic reunion. Please call Lynne (244-8139) or me (244-5267), or come to a meeting if you have memories to share. We'd really like to hear them.

Karen Craig, President  
(207-244-5267 or [kc232sw@yahoo.com](mailto:kc232sw@yahoo.com))

**IN MEMORY OF.** Contributions have been made to the society in memory of

- Elene Hamblen Dolliver by Agnes Dolliver Carr
- Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Krantz and son Emery by Charles & Frances Johnson
- Marguerite Hamblen Hancock by Grace Klausky
- Crosby Mills by Dalen and Liz Mills
- George A. Robbins and Eleanor Robbins at Manset, 1940-1970 by Eleanor Robbins
- Terry and David Walsh by H. Leighton Wass
- George Jellison, Sr. by Felton D. and Peggy Kenney
- Edna Jellison and George Jellison, Sr. by George M. Jellison, Jr.
- Julie Speakman by Jay and Diane Speakman
- June Russell by Betsey Holtzmann
- Mary (Polly) Lawrence by Sam Lawrence

**DONATIONS.** We are grateful to the following people for their continuing support:

- |                          |                              |                                |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Alice Abbott             | Leza Colquhon                | Edward & Rosalinda Madara, Jr. |
| Phyllis Acadia           | Davis Agency                 | Al & Donna Michaud             |
| Richard E. Allen         | Hector Diaz                  | Patrick & Ellen Mitchell       |
| Barbara & Mark Amstutz   | Richard Dimond               | Joe & Lori Morneau, Jr.        |
| Anne & David Benson      | Deborah Dyer                 | Cora Olgyay & Alan Rosenquist  |
| Lynne Birlem             | Fidelity Charitable          | Henry Raup                     |
| Russell & Lynne Bradford | Jan Fleming                  | Louise C. Reimer               |
| Duane & Ruth Braun       | Joanne & Richard Fuerst      | Howard & Paula Vogel           |
| Ellen & Ken Brookes      | Dr. Philip F. M. Gilley, Jr. | Kathe Newman Walton            |
| Susan Buell              | Wayne & Mary Gilley          | Karin & Phil Whitney           |
| Natalie Spahr Bush       | Gray Family Fund             | James & Cathy Willey           |
| Edwin F. Butler, Jr.     | Eric & Kate Henry            | Mark C. Worcester              |
| Barbara & Mark Campbell  | Linda & Peter Homer          | Keith & Mary Wozniak           |
| William J. Carroll       | John & Margaret Kelley       |                                |
| Andy Cline               | William & Diane Krueger      |                                |

**Officers:** Karen Craig, Pres.; Phil Whitney, V.P.; Lynne Birlem, Treas.; Henryetta Ponczek, Secy.; Board Members: John Burnham, Bob Davis, Jack Gilley, Wayne Gilley, Bernie Mauger, Al Michaud, Donna Michaud, Patty Pinkham, Ralph Stanley, Rich Viera, Kathe Walton.

Our acquisitions, displays, and general information about the historical society are located in the Southwest Harbor/Tremont Chamber of Commerce room at Harbor House on Southwest Harbor's Main Street. Hours change with the seasons. Closed mid-October into May. You may also visit our website: **SWHHS.org**

“He could be seen daily on horseback travelling to the scattered homes on the island. He took a deep interest in church affairs and served the Congregational Church as its clerk for many years. His neat, plain handwriting is preserved in the first records of the First Congregational church at Southwest Harbor.

“He was a man of considerable business ability, built several vessels and carried on a large farm. It is told of him that no matter how sick the patient was, on his arrival at the house he always asked for a lunch and sat down to smoke his pipe before seeing the sufferer and on his return he would call at some house along the road to have another lunch and a smoke, saying that it was good for his horse to have a rest. He was the beloved physician of high character and charitable even to his own injury. He raised a large family and many of his descendants are still living on the island,. He died in 1857. The saddlebags which he carried for many miles are to be seen at the Mount Desert Museum in Somesville and the vials contain some of the medicines which he put there himself.”

*Should anyone wish to see the bags and their contents, they are on display at the Southwest Harbor/Tremont Chamber of Commerce building on Main Street where the historical society has exhibit space.*

**SUMMER 2017 PROGRAMS.** This past summer the historical society produced three programs.



**Summers in Southwest Harbor, August 16:** After ice cream was passed out to the audience to the sound of a long-ago ice cream truck, Lynne Birlem, Wayne Gilley, and Rod Lucas remembered what it was like growing up in Southwest Harbor. Lynne and Wayne spoke from the perspective of those born and raised here; Rod spoke about what it was like to spend summers in a place that he grew to love and settled in as an adult. The audience responded with memories of their own. *(Can anyone identify these lovely ladies? If so, Email me at [henryettaponcek@gmail.com](mailto:henryettaponcek@gmail.com).)*

**Organizer:** Since this was the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the October fire on Mt. Desert Island, we showed a film, *The Year Maine Burned*, from Northeast Historic Films. Lynne also read aloud a *Reader's Digest* article which described the devastation. Although the fire did not reach the west side of the island, the people of Southwest Harbor did provide fire-fighting help and shelter for some fleeing Bar Harbor. Newspapers of the time were on display for perusal.

**The Fire of 1947, September 20, Lynne Birlem,**



**Fishing at Mt. Desert Rock, October 12, Kathe Newman Walton and Lynne Birlem, Organizers:** This year for the first time the Southwest Harbor/Tremont Chamber of Commerce organized a “Southwest Harbor Week: Celebrate the Quightside of Acadia.” As part of that celebration the historical society in conjunction with the Penobscot Marine Museum presented *Fishing at Mt. Desert Rock*, a film by Laurence Newman and son Jarvis. The film demonstrated handling and trawling for cod, pollock, halibut, and tuna during the 40's and 50's. Cipperly Good of the marine museum provided background information via narration.

*(The picture is not the Newmans, but it shows the size of a tuna that could have been part of their haul. Both pictures above are from the historical society's files.)*

Lest those of you who move to warmer climes during the winter months forget what winter can be like here, let these pictures remind you. All photos are from our historical society's files.



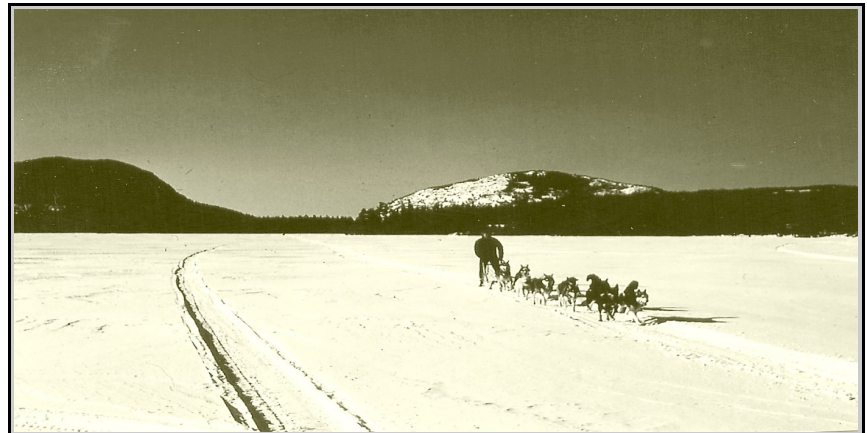
After the April of 1939 snowstorm, Charles Sawyer, Jr. jumps off Middy Herrick's roof.

The picture at the right from the *Ellsworth American* shows Seawall Road after a February, 1978 storm.

Below you can almost recognize the McEachern & Hutchins hardware store, date unknown, but you get the idea.



Stormy Feb 7, 1978. Started abt. 11:00 am - right before Boston hit us hard.  
**Seawall Roadblock**  
 Last week's storm piled chunks of sea ice 12 to 14 inches thick over Rte. 102A at Seawall. Behind the ice pile, rocks and ice wedged out the road and left it strewn with debris and debris the length of the seawall. No one in the area can remember so much storm damage to the road; it was washed out in the 1930's but not as badly.  
 Photo by LaRue Spiker



Dog sledding on Long Pond in the '60's

*For a bit of local color in an otherwise bleak landscape, Lynne Birlem related the following incident:*

In the mid-forties, after a day on the town crew shoveling snow, Alden Mace slogged towards home, swinging a quart of beer in each fist. As he passed the tall hydrant on Main Street by Warren Worcester's residence, he tinked the outlet and helplessly watched the suds gush forth. Enraged, he arced the second bottle and christened the hydrant...."Take that one, too, you son of a bitch!" he growled.

Told by my father Wallace Birlem repeatedly and I never pass the hydrant beneath that magnificent elm without remembering.

If anyone else has like memories that they'd like to share, email me at [henryettaPONCZEK@gmail.com](mailto:henryettaPONCZEK@gmail.com) or write me, Henryetta Ponczek, PO Box 21, Seal Cove, ME 04674.

From The Bar Harbor Times, May 17, 1962

# SOUTHWEST HARBOR

## PERSONAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS

Deborah Fields of San Juan, Puerto Rico is visiting her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. William V. Johnston.

Barbetta Davis, home economics teacher at Pemetic high school, was honored Monday evening at a shower given by Elizabeth Demiban. A cake, topped with a bride doll, with the icing ruffles forming the long, full bridal gown, centered the serving table. Guests were Mrs. Leslie King, Mrs. Dwight Perkins, Mrs. Jay Ramsdell, Mrs. Howard Crafts, Mrs. Howell Burns, Mrs. Thomas Searls, Mrs. Arthur Johnson, Mrs. Frederick Raynes, Mrs. Alton Robinson, Mrs. Willis J. Furtwengler and Mrs. Eugene Therault.

Weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Perkins and son Val were her nephew Danny Waldron, a student at Ricker college and Hollis Bishop, a student at M. C. I Both boys are from Fort Fairfield. Mr. and Mrs. Perkins and Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Raynes visited Mr. Perkins' brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Day at Castine Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. William V. Johnston spent the weekend at Marion, Mass., where they attended the annual spring day at Tabor academy. Their two sons, John and Charles, are students there.

The Rebekah degree was conferred upon three candidates Friday evening at Oddfellows' Hall.

### CARD OF THANKS

I would like to express my appreciation for all the favors and courtesies extended to me during my recent stay at the MDI hospital.

Mrs. Ellen Brown  
Southwest Harbor

The Rev. Joseph Trask of St. James Episcopal church, Laconia, N.H., has collaborated with Dr. Donald J. Selby, North Carolina college professor, in the publication of a 334-page book on the life of St. Paul. The book was published two weeks ago. Rev. Trask is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Trask of Southwest Harbor.

Mr. and Mrs. George Vose are

parents of a daughter, Mary Elizabeth, born Sunday at the Maine Coast Memorial hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter T. Benson of Seawall entertained for Mother's Day their son Peter Benson and two children, Eric and Carey, of Old Town, their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Bachman, and daughter Pamela of Augusta, and their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. David Benson, and son Bill of Southwest Harbor.

Lee Wilbur, a student at MCI and the son of Dr. and Mrs. Herbert T. Wilbur, is a patient at MDI hospital.

Weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Grindle were their daughter, Mrs. Lawrence Berry and two children David and Diane, another daughter, Ruth Ann Grindle, and Kathy Bryant.

## ECHO VISTA

### The Lakeside Restaurant



Two miles south of Somesville on  
Echo Lake - Route 102  
Open daily except Mondays

Breakfast Lunch Dinner  
Phoner Chestnut 4-3418

Your hosts: Kay and Franz Karban

It's easy to choose a good and  
inexpensive dinner at Echo Vista

Sunday Special - May 20, 1962  
**BAKED SMOKED HAM**  
\$2.00

Candied Sweet Potatoes String Beans  
Choice of Dessert & Beverage  
Home baked Rolls and Butter  
Wide selection of other entrees

Ocean-fresh Sea Food and other  
Popular Platters  
Grilled Hamburgers & Frankfurters  
Home-baked Pies and Pastries

BAKED BEAN SUPPER  
EVERY SATURDAY \$1.00

## Park Theatre

### Southwest Harbor, Me.

One Show at 7:30 P. M.

Fri. - Sat. May 18 - 19

## THE ERRAND BOY

Jerry Lewis

The following is a partial list of the dozens of donations we've received within the last year. For a complete, detailed list compiled by our archivist John Burnham, consult the Finding Aid on our website, SWHHS.org.

1. Six Park Theater signs for use with movie posters, from Phil Whitney. The poster on the right is of *Good Night, Paul*, a 1918 silent comedy starring Constance Talmadge and Harrison Ford.



2. Six movie posters from the Park Theater from the 1940's, from Phil Whitney.
3. Three scrapbooks compiled by Dorothy Marshall, from Becky Madeira Castle.
4. Four toys: Spin-a-Word Play Wheel and three Junior Jiggies from the 1940's, from Rebecca Burnham.
5. Genealogies of the Wall and related families, from Warren and Dottie Worcester; and of the Robert Carver family from Fred and Margaret Carver.
6. Various yearbooks of the Friendship Sloop Society and the Pemetic Elementary School.
7. A 1906 sampler found in the attic of the Kingsleigh Inn by Cummins E. Speakman, from Diane and Jay Speakman.



8. White, two-piece wedding dress and a pair of 10" high black fur boots from Diane and Jay Speakman.



9. Odd Fellows women's costume jewelry pin.



10. Tea cart from Ocean House, from Al and Donna Michaud. Ocean House was located where the Catholic church is located in Manset. It operated from the 1860's into the 1940's. The picture at right is from 1947.



A year ago in our February, 2017, issue we began a series on sites within Southwest Harbor that are on the National Register of Historic Places. There are five of them. This article on the Claremont Hotel is the third in the series. The hotel was added to the register in 1978. All photos below are from the collection of the Southwest Harbor Historical Society.



The Claremont Hotel is an historic hotel on Claremont Road just off Clark Point Road in Southwest Harbor. One reason that it is considered historic is that it stands as one of the last reminders of Maine's early summer resort period of the 1870's and 80's. In an era still unaffected by the rush and bustle of modern transportation and tourism, inns like the Claremont became a community unto themselves for families who would spend entire summers here. It was built in 1883 and opened for business in 1884.

Opened in 1884 by retired sea captain Jesse Pease and his wife Grace, the Claremont was purchased in 1908 by local citizen Dr. Joseph Phillips. Dr. and Mrs. Phillips, and later their son Lawrence and his wife Maude, operated the hotel until 1968 when it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Allen McCue of Yarmouth, Maine, long-time summer residents of Mt. Desert. In 1984 the McCues held a centennial celebration at the hotel. The McCue family are current owners.

In addition to being a relic of a more relaxed era, the Claremont is noteworthy for its architectural merits. Built by a Mr. Glover of Rockland, it was one of the first large Victorian resort hotels on MDI, and it is one of the last surviving examples of its type. The hotel is a 3 ½ -story frame building, rectangular in plan with stone foundation and white clapboard siding. The roof is hipped with a cross gable. There is a pair of external chimneys one on each end of the building. The main entrance, in the photo below on the right, faces west; the rear of the building, seen in the photo on the left, faces east to look across Somes Sound.

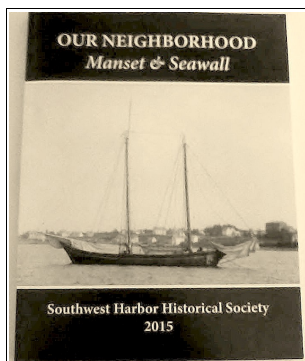


In 1911 an annex was moved to the northeast corner, a 2 ½ -story ell, which had been the Pematic Hotel, another early hotel built by Deacon Clark as part of his Island House accommodations. You can see the annex in the picture on the left. By 1978 there were plans to demolish this ell, although the exact date of its demolition is not known to us. This returned the hotel to its original Victorian appearance.

The setting of the hotel is remarkably unchanged from its original environment with spacious grounds, including a broad expanse of lawn leading to a small boathouse and pier. Interior alterations for the periodic modernization of the building have been kept to a minimum. In sum, the Claremont Hotel is a very well preserved example of a nearly extinct building type: the Victorian resort hotel.

*The information herein is available on the National Register of Historic Places web site and the Claremont Hotel web site.*

---

**ITEMS FOR SALE****BOOK**

***OUR NEIGHBORHOOD—MANSET AND SEAWALL.*** 2015. 160 pages with compact disc. 8 ½" x 11". Features 365 buildings with comprehensive deed work; 125 photos. This book is also for sale at our presentations; at Davis Realty Agency, Carroll Drugstore, and Sawyer's Market, all in Southwest Harbor; the Southwest Harbor Public Library; Sherman's Bookstore in Bar Harbor; and on our website, **SWHHS.org**, where there is an order form.

Members \$33                      Non-members \$35  
Please add \$4 for shipping.

**DVD'S**

The DVD's are recordings of some of our summer programs. You may go to our web site, **SWHHS.org**, where there is an order form for these DVD's, or you may just write us directly with your order.

**On Fishing;** Wendell Seavey, Speaker  
**Ice Cutting;** Jack and Wayne Gilley, Speakers  
**A Southwest Harbor Boyhood;** Ralph Stanley, Speaker  
**The United States Coast Guard;** Rich Viera, Speaker  
**The Granite Industry;** Stephen Haynes, Speaker  
**The WWII K-14 Blimp Mystery;** Earl Brechlin, Speaker  
**The Steamboat Era of Southwest Harbor;** Ralph Stanley & Phil Whitney, Speakers  
**Family Photos of an Earlier Southwest Harbor;** Kathe Newman Walton, Speaker

Members \$11                      Non-members \$12  
Please add \$3 per item for shipping.

Orders for the books and DVD's should be sent to Southwest Harbor Historical Society, P. O. Box 272, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679. You may use the order form on our web site or simply write a note with your request.

---

**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

There is still time to send in your dues for 2017. **The date above your name on the address page shows when your membership expires.** We look forward to receiving your dues so that we may continue mailing you the newsletter. We are now offering you the option of receiving the newsletter by email. On this month's blue cover sheet there is a spot for your email address. **Fill in your email address only if you wish to receive future newsletters that way.**

---

**WEBSITE INFORMATION (swhhs.org)**

Our web site is a wealth of information about the historical society. Along with basic information about our constitution by-laws, list of board members, tax status, and contact information, there is a complete list of our hundreds of holdings. It is searchable by key word. There is a listing of our presentations from the beginning of the society's inception and a copy of each newsletter that we've ever published. There are forms for ordering our publication and DVD's, plus a membership form. There is an article about the Boston Post Cane, the formation of the society back in 2005, and photos that you might be interested in viewing.