

The Sou'West Voyage

TRADITIONS AND RECORDS

Norwood Cove Southwest Harbor Greening Island
Manset Seawall

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P.O. Box 272 Southwest Harbor ME 04679

Chris Rawls, President Phil Whitney, Vice President

Rebecca Carlson, Secretary Maurice Joseph Marshall, Treasurer

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From the President:

Some exciting developments are underway with the Society as 2006 comes to a close and we look forward to 2007. The Southwest Harbor/Tremont Chamber of Commerce is in the process of moving to a new location in the building formerly the site of Ya Gotta Love It Videos, across the parking lot in back of the library. Many of you remember when the State Liquor Store was in this building. The great news for the Historical Society is that we gain storage space in this building for our growing collection of artifacts. A portion of the window space will be available for historical displays. The location also provides space for monthly meetings.

Meeting time will change to the first and third Mondays of the month at 6 PM. This change will allow for more groups to attend our meetings and hopefully the sharing of many more stories and reminiscences of days gone by.

Many thanks to Janet and Wayne Patton for their great work on our most recent programs- Pemetic High School, Hollywood Star Myrna Fahey, and the History of Main Street. Also thanks to Phil Whitney for keeping the Society on the right track and Becky Carlson for putting together and mailing our newsletters. I am personally grateful to Joe Marshall for his help with so many historical society tasks.

We are fortunate to be in this town so rich with history and "local color".

I hope you'll come often to our Monday evening meetings at our new location behind the library.

Thank you for your individual and collective support.

Christopher D. Rawls
President

LOOKING BACK :

(items of interest in the local newspapers of years past)

From the Bar Harbor Times archive at the Jessup Library in Bar Harbor

January 25, 1922

“Crews Busy Harvesting Ice at the Ponds

The ice ponds in town have been the scenes of busy occupation the past week. Christopher Lawler has had a crew of eighteen men working night and day to take advantage of the good weather. Mr. Lawler has shipped a large quantity of ice to Greening's Island to fill the ice house belonging to Mr. Colton's summer home there. J. L. Stanley and Sons began work Monday with a crew of thirty one men and by working night and day they harvested and stored 1300 tons of ice and finished work Thursday night. The ice is cut from Capt. Stanley's artificial pond back of his residence and has to be sluiced to the store houses at the shore. As the sluice has to cross the highway and is often held up by passing travel the work by day is delayed so the night is stressed. The ice is of excellent quality this year-clear and smooth. “

(Janet Patton)

We gratefully acknowledge donations from the following members:

Edward A. Brown III & Family

Susan B. Lamb

Ruth K. Jellison

Bill & Tina Baker

Nancy & Todd Smith

John & Mary Treanor

Betty R. King *in memory of S. Leslie King*

Edwin & Beth Reed *in memory of Maxine Goodwin*

Your membership is very important to us. Additionally, donations over and above membership help the Southwest Harbor Historical Society record, store, and present historic photos and artifacts of Southwest Harbor history. Thank you for considering an additional gift to the Society

Recent Activities:

The past quarter was exceptionally active for the Historical Society. Joe Marshall devoted extensive hours on Sunday afternoons in July & August to hosting his "Walking Tours of Southwest Harbor". These popular walks included the SWH Business District, Clark Point and the Manset Shore Road. The Historical Society Summer Season Program Series continued its monthly presentations. July saw the "History of the Park Theater" presented at the American Legion Hall. Bill Baker, a local movie theatre historian, spoke regarding the theatre's chronological history and its impact on the community over the years. Janet Patton provided an accompanying Power Point slide presentation of exterior & interior photos. Phil Whitney displayed extensive memorabilia collected from the theatre, including movie posters, program schedules covering four decades, and old lobby cards & photos recovered from dusty corners of the theatre attic. August was considered the high point of this memory - filled season, with the "History of Clark Point" appropriately presented at the Clark Room of the Claremont Hotel. The largest crowd of the season turned out at this prestigious location - a balanced mix of local citizens, summer residents and old-time Clark Point families. Over (120) photos were presented by Society Curators Janet & Wayne Patton (the culmination of hours of research and preparation) to an enthusiastic & appreciative audience. September returned our 'production crew' to the American Legion Hall for the "History of Main Street". This was another well-attended event, full of photos & stories dating back to the late 1800's. The program was especially effective in portraying how dramatic the changes have been in the Main Street Business District over the years, primarily due to fires, the automobile boom, and changing economics (growth of tourist-oriented businesses and negative influences of regional chain stores).

October saw the finale of the summer series at the American Legion Hall with the "Story of Myrna Fahey" - SWH's contribution to 'A Star Is Born' Hollywood success story.. The program traced the history of our small town girl who graduated from Pemetic High School in 1951, and eventually reached Hollywood, making it big in numerous television shows & movies of the 1950's & 1960's before succumbing to a premature death from cancer in 1973. Charlie Fahey attended the event, and entertained the audience with many anecdotes about his sister. All our programs were successful this year, partially due to the many people who attended, but especially because each event encouraged informal interactions among the audience members with questions & reminiscences while the shows were being presented. Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves sharing happy memories and learning new, unknown 'facts'. (Did you know Myrna Fahey once dated Elvis Presley, and that Elvis was closely scrutinized by her mother before being allowed out with her daughter?) With valuable trivia like this on the minds of attendees, interest in the SWH Historical Society seemed to steadily grow with each presentation. Participants often lingered after the shows, exchanging additional stories and expressing suggestions for future program topics. Society Members who deserve special mention and thanks for this great season include Janet & Wayne Patton for preparing their outstanding collection of photos for presentation, Joe Marshall for his previously-mentioned efforts of 'talking-the-walk', and certainly Society Secretary Becky Carlson, who provided all the refreshments, sold all the 'junky' souvenirs, happily collected all the donations (in the Clark's Dairy milk bottle), and expertly handled most of the publicity & location logistics.

From the Archive Collections Committee:

The historical society will be settling into its temporary home at the new Chamber of Commerce office at 20 Village Green Way during the next couple of months. We will have space for display and storage.

Thank you to Gerry and Joan Walls for the donation of a painting by George Noyes of "The Marsh". Also, thank you to Margaret Clark Gilliam for the geneology of the Clark family of Southwest Harbor from 1812 to the present. We really appreciate not only the donations but the notes that you send. Many thanks.

If you have something that would help preserve the history of Southwest Harbor and can part with it, please let us know at PO Box 272 Southwest Harbor ME 04679, 244-9264, or swhhistory@yahoo.com.

Rebecca Carlson

In Memoriam:

Florence Guillan Society member and wife of John Guillan.

Inez Smith longtime Southwest Harbor resident

Anna L. Stanley matron of large Southwest Harbor family, known for her cooking & sewing

Juanita Davis Twigg co-owner of Tom Cat Variety

Last issue's WHERE & WHEN?



THE FRONT DESK OF THE CLAREMONT HOTEL circa 1941
Pictured Left to Right: Frank Gilley (in rocking chair), Dr. Joseph Dana Phillips (owner),
Lawrence Dana Phillips (manager).

Upcoming Events:

The Historical Society is taking a short, well-deserved breather from program events for the next several weeks. We have been provided a new temporary home, one section in the newly-relocated Chamber of Commerce offices, located next to the American Legion Hall in the Municipal Parking Lot. This area will provide much-needed storage space for artifacts the Society has acquired, along with display space for some of the artifacts. Work space for program preparation and research, and meeting space for the monthly business meetings, is also provided. We will be busy organizing this area for the next few weeks.

Our next proposed program is scheduled for Wednesday, 12/13 at 6 PM at the Chamber of Commerce Building. The Great Cranberry Island Historical Society will provide a presentation describing progress on their 'new' building restoration project, the "Cranberry House", which will house the museum, archives, a cultural activities center, and cafe. Also, how the Society has developed a promotional program through the preparation of various historical videos and booklets, as exemplified by their "Hitty Preble" project. Bruce Komusin, Museum Curator & Technical Wizard, and Phil Whitney, Building Committee Chairman, will present the program.

The Society has planned a series of smaller winter programs beginning in January, 2007. These will essentially be workshop programs designed to improve on or add to information presented in earlier programs this Summer. All programs are scheduled for the 2nd Mondays of each month. The proposed schedule includes: January 15 - Clark Point, February 12 - Main Street, March 12 - Myrna Fahey. Interested persons who missed the initial presentations or simply want to see them again with possibly added material are encouraged to attend. We also hope to continue our last year Winter project of interviewing SWH old-timers or others who have significant knowledge to share concerning aspects of SWH history.

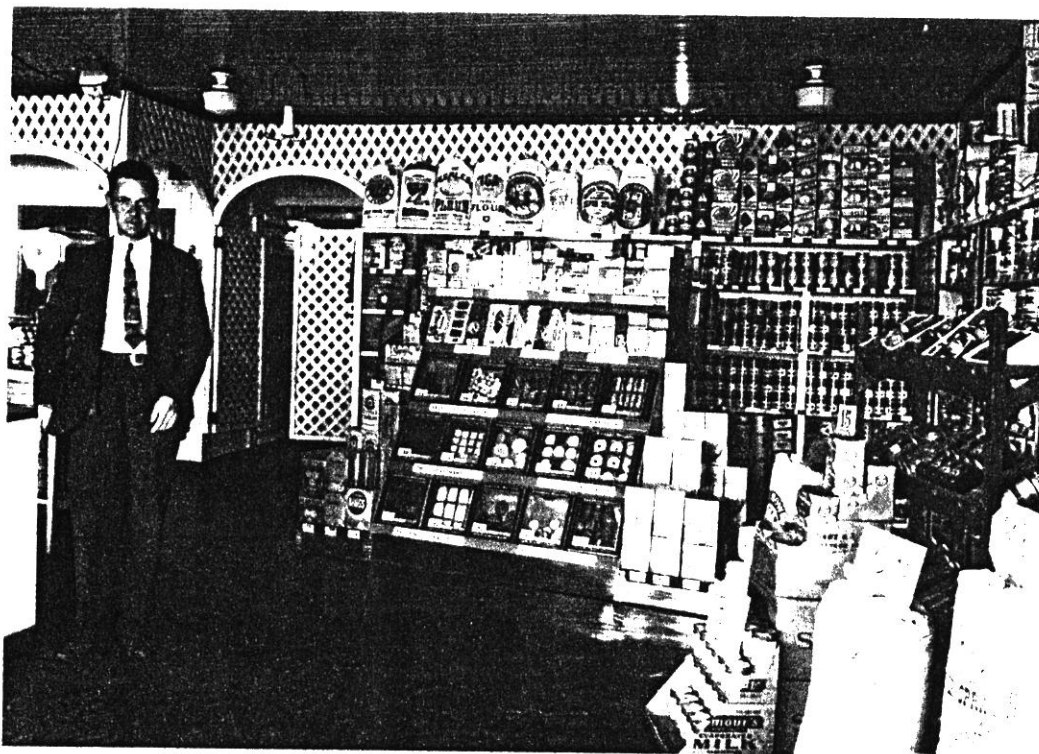
Phil Whitney, Vice-President

HISTORICAL REQUESTS CORNER

The Southwest Harbor Historical Society has been presenting history nights for over a year now. These history nights would not have been possible without the help of others. We have been collecting photos from many different people, and then putting them together for each presentation. We hope to continue these history nights, and have plans for several repeats during the first part of the year, and new ones during the summer months. If you have photos that you would be willing to share, please contact us. You do not have to give up your photo's we will come to your home and scan them into our computer. Your photos never need leave your home. We are also looking for anything that pertains to the past of our town, and the people who have lived here. If you have something you are not sure about, give us a call and we will let you know if it could help us. We appreciate your help in this matter.

Wayne & Janet Patton

WHERE & WHEN?



Answer in next issue

CONTACT US:

THE SOUTHWEST HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 272
SOUTHWEST HARBOR ME 04679
244-9264 (THE SWH-TREMONT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE)
swhhistory@yahoo.com