

The Sou'West Voyage

TRADITIONS AND RECORDS

Norwood Cove

Southwest Harbor

Greening Island

Manset

Seawall

Feb. 2016

SOUTHWEST HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Published three times yearly: February, June, and November

SWHHS.org



30-YEAR EMPLOYEE FETED—Mrs. John Hopkins of Manset was tendered a party celebrating her 30th year of service with the New England Telephone and Telegraph company in Southwest Harbor recently. Attending were, left to right, seated, Miss Barbara Mayo, Mrs. Hopkins and a chief operator, Miss Augusta Snowman; and standing, Mrs. Inez Leighton, Mrs. Donald Berry, Mrs. Harvard Gilley, Mrs. Paul Dam, Mrs. Artemus Richardson, Mrs. Louise Harriman, Mrs. Warren Rice and Miss Evelyn Robbins. Mrs. Theodore Hancock also attended. (Ballard photo.)

As telephones became more popular, more people and equipment were required to maintain service until eventually a telephone operator, Mrs. John Hopkins, was being honored for her 30 years of service to what was by then the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company.

How did Southwest Harbor move from once-per-week mail delivery into the electronic age of telephones? Read on.

(Cont'd on Page 3)

As I write this, huge flakes of snow are drifting over our frozen landscape. With all the windows that I have in my home, it is like being inside a snow globe. How fortunate we are to live in such a beautiful part of the world.

Sooner than we realize, spring will be right around the corner and with it comes all of the busyness of the summer season and the Acadia National Park Centennial. The Southwest Harbor Historical Society will be part of that celebration with a program we will present in August about life 100 years ago. Phil Whitney and Henryetta Ponczek are putting the evening together for us, and there will be much more information as we progress.

Spring will also bring further followup on the High Road cemetery project, as well as be the time of our next board meeting. Many of our board members leave the area for the winter.

The Manset-Seawall book has been selling well. It does make a wonderful gift, and we are happy to mail them.

Warren Worcester feels that it is time to retire from the board. The history and pictures he has shared with us over the past 10 years have added so much to our society. He will be missed more than he can imagine.

Change is always with us, and with that in mind, we are pleased to continue to preserve the history that colors those changes.

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

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

Walter (Pa) Hamblen	by Grace B. Klausky
Edna Jellison	by Brenda & Bruce Albers
Oscar & Inez Krantz; Emery Krantz	by Charles & Frances (Krantz) Johnson
Jack Madore	by Loretta Rogers

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

Alice Abbott	Brenda & Bruce Albers	Bar Harbor Bank & Trust
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Keith & Mary Wozniak		

Officers: Karen Craig, Pres.; Phil Whitney, V.P.; Lynne Birlem, Treas.; Henryetta Ponczek, Sec.; Board Members: John Burnham, Bob Davis, Margaret Delehanty, Jack Gilley, Wayne Gilley, Bernie Mauger, Ralph Stanley, Kathe Walton.

Newsletter Editor: Henryetta Ponczek

Our acquisitions, displays, and general information about the historical society are located in the Southwest Harbor 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**.

Henryetta Ponczek

In the early years of the 1800's mail was brought to Somesville once a week from the post office in Ellsworth. In Somesville John Somes distributed that mail to all of Mount Desert Island. Then in 1869 Deacon Clark organized the island's first telegraph office, connecting Tremont (as Southwest Harbor was then known) with Somesville and Ellsworth. It took another year for a line to be installed to Ellsworth. (Thornton, P. 104)

Abbie May Holden (afterward Mrs. William Lawton) was the first telegraph operator. With just a short period when her sister Mrs. Phebe Holden Ross took the position, Mrs. Lawton manned the office in her home until the advent of the telephone put the telegraph office out of business. It would be another 14 years (1883) before a public telephone office linking the town to the neighboring harbors and the mainland would be set up. (Thornton, P. 104)

In 1913 the next step would be to connect homes to the line. In the picture below we can see a wagon crew unreeling wire along Clark Point Road.

Clark Point Road - Laying Telephone Wire - 1913; Photographer unknown - Copy by W. H. Ballard - Number 5521; The Southwest Harbor Public Library Collection of Photographs



Those children pictured in the foreground are (l. to r.) Lawrence Dana Phillips and John Dix Lawler. The dog is Dot. The man in the right foreground is James A. Turner. The crew is unidentified.

The houses, left to right, are 1. John C. Ralph house, 53 Clark Pt. Rd.; 2. the dark house, William Irving Mayo house at 51 Clark Pt. Rd. built in 1894. 3. The next house up the hill was used by S. H. Mayo as a residence with attached blacksmith/bicycle shop, later as a tea room, dry goods shop, and office at 47 Clark Pt. Rd. 4. Next, at the junction of Clark Pt. Rd. and High Rd. is the Watson Herrick store, 14 High Rd. 5. At the top of the hill across the street is the barn on the Mayo-Holmes property. 6. The house at the right foreground was built by Edward Reid McLean in 1885 and later became the B. C. Worcester home and still later the Roger Rich home at 50 Clark Pt. Rd.

(Cont'd on Page 4)

Before the laying of telephone wire pictured in the previous photo, a group of local men had formed the Island Telephone Company in 1907. They were Dr. Thomas Tapley; Guy Parker, the owner of the Parker wharf in Bernard; Lewis Springer, carpenter; Frank McMullan, retail merchant; Dr. George Neal; and William Tower, postmaster. The company constructed twenty-five miles of pole line with over 100 subscribers. The exchange was located in the Odd Fellows' building in Southwest Harbor. The rate for subscribers was \$12 per year for a residence and \$15 per year for a business. It was this company that published this early phone directory sometime between 1913 and 1918.

Subscribers of Island Telephone Co.-SWH & Tremont-Circa 1913-918; Printed by Amer. Print, Ellsworth; No. 6414-The Southwest Harbor Public Library Digital Reference Archive.

Subscribers of Island Telephone Company.

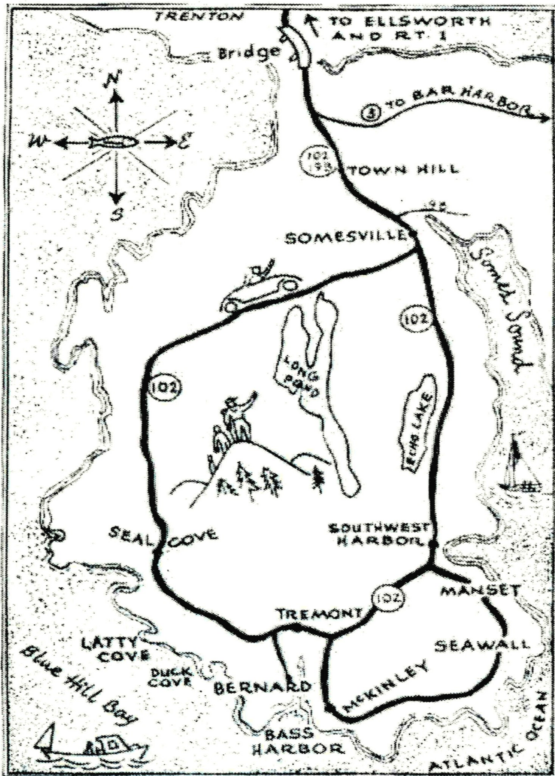
Call Subscribers by Number.

To call the operator, ring by pressing the button. To ring off after a call, ring without pressing the button.

<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>22-23 Ashley, Roland, r. Seal Cove</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <p>13- 4 Billings, J E, r. Seawall 13- 5 Brown, Harry, r 28-12 Bunker, L A, sail maker, McKinley 25- 3 Bunker, L A, r. McKinley</p> <p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <p>2-11 Claremont House 1-12 Clark, Henry, store and Pres Island Tel Co 18-14 Clark, Nellie M, r 3- 2 Cooper, Joseph, r 6-11 Crippen, J T Co, music store</p> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <p>2- 3 Dirigo Hotel 25-21 Dix, Hiram, r</p> <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <p>1-21 Eastern Steamship Co 28-31 Eaton, Albert, stable, McKinley 28- 3 Eaton House, McKinley</p> <p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <p>13-13 Fernald, James, r. Seawall 4-21 Freeman, J T R, store 2- 4 Fuller, Geo R, lawyer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <p>4- 3 Gilley, Mrs Julia, r 25-12 Galley, Geo, r. Bernard</p> <p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <p>13- 3 Hadlock, Hiram, r. Seawall 13-21 Hancock, J O, market, Manset 6-21 Hancock, J O, market 6-12 Harmon, Geo, r 22-22 Harper, E C, r. Center 22-21 Harper, Wm J, store, Center 22-12 Heath, W W A, r. Seal Cove 18-31 Higgins, Mrs R B, Manset House, Manset 22-32 Hodgdon, Frank, r. Center 5- 1 Holmes, A I, store 2-22 Holmes, W T, store Holmes, W T, r</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <p>24- 3 Ingalls, Otis, r. West Tremont 3- 3 Inman, Henry, r</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <p>25-22 Jackson, T W & Son, market, Bernard</p> <p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <p>3- 4 Kaighn, Robert, r 22- 2 Kelley, James R. r. Seal Cove 24- 5 Kelley, James r. Bernard 1- 5 King, M B, fish market 20- 2 Kittredge, O M, store, Tremont 28-23 Knowlton, Mrs Vilda, r. Bernard</p> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <p>28- 4 Latty, V H, r. McKinley 8- 1 Lemont, R J, store 24- 2 Lunt, Chas P, r. West Tremont 17- 4 Lunt, Frank, store, West Tremont</p> <p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <p>28-21 Manchester, Frank, store, McKinley</p> <p>28-11 Martin, C O, r. McKinley 1-13 Mayo, S H, shop 7- 3 Mayo, D L, store 28- 2 McMullen, Frank, r. McKinley 9- 3 Murphy, W E, stable 25- 5 Murphy, W E, r 24- 4 Murphy, Helen, r. West Tremont</p> <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <p>10- 1 Neal, Geo A, physician 13-12 Newman, S W, store, Manset 6- 3 Norwood, S W, lawyer 6- 2 Norwood, S W, r 28-13 Norwood, Dan, r. McKinley 24-22 Norwood, Arthur, r. West Tremont 17- 3 Norwood, Dennis, r. West Tremont 20-23 Norwood, Chas, r. Tremont 25- 2 Norwood, L J, r. Bernard</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <p>18- 0 Parker, James, r. Manset 25- 4 Parker, Guy H, store, Bernard 7- 2 Phillips, Dr J D 22-13 Powers, Mrs J H, r. Seal Cove</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">R</p> <p>17-11 Reed, B B, store, Vice Pres Island Tel Co 22- 5 Reed, Maynard, r. Seal Cove 24-11 Rich, James, r. West Tremont 28- 5 Richardson, P W & Son, store, McKinley 24-12 Rich, Willard, r. West Tremont 20-31 Rich, Levi, r. Tremont 9- 5 Robbins, Howard, store 17-12 Rumill, L W, r. West Tremont 17-22 Rumill, Robie, deputy sheriff, West Tremont 22-11 Rumill, J H, r. Seal Cove</p> <p style="text-align: center;">S</p> <p>4-13 Savage, Thos, Prop Central House 22-14 Sawyer, Herbert L, r. Seal Cove 5- 2 Somes, A L, store 22- 6 Somes, Eldridge, r. Center 24-21 Springer, L S, r. West Tremont 13-11 Spurling, Henry, r. Seawall 13-22 Stanley House 18- 4 Stanley, J L & Sons, fish wharf, Manset 18-15 Staples, Albert, r. Manset</p> <p style="text-align: center;">T</p> <p>25-31 Tapley, Dr T S, McKinley 6- 4 Thurston, E S, r 13-14 Tinker, N C, restaurant, Manset 5- 3 Tower, Wm J, r 4-12 Tracy, Henry, r 11-11 Trundy, H E, Prop Hotel Holmes 22-31 Turner, James, r. Center</p> <p style="text-align: center;">W</p> <p>20-11 Wallace, Sidney, r. Tremont 20- 3 Wallace, A J, r. Bernard 13- 2 Ward, W H, store, Manset 25- 6 Ward, Charles, r 25-11 Watson, Willis, r. Bernard 20- 4 Watson, Willis, store, Bernard 20-21 Watson, Willis, store at wharf, Bernard 17- 2 Webster, H T, r. West Tremont 24-14 Wentworth, Alonzo A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Y</p> <p>18- 3 Young Bros, blacksmiths</p>
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*Visit the Beautiful Southwest Harbor -
 Tremont Area of Mt. Desert Island*

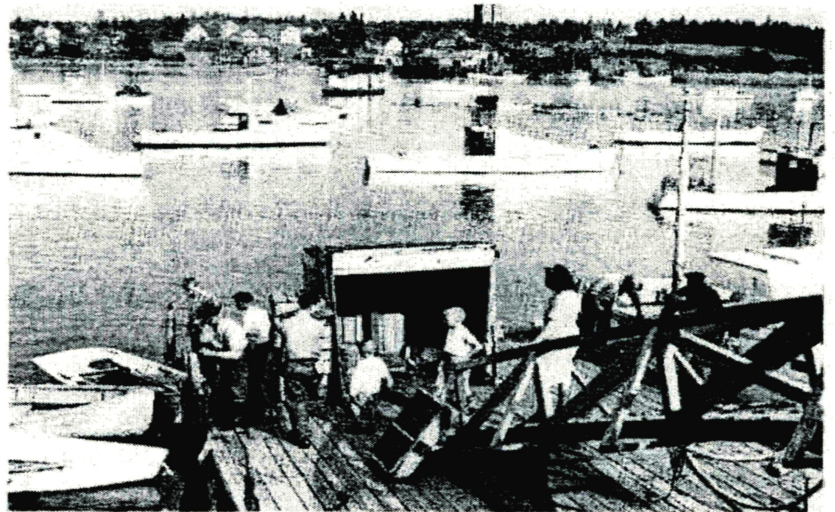
PLEASANTLY OFF THE BEATEN TRACK . . .
 YET CLOSE TO ACADIA NATIONAL PARK



Southwest Harbor

Both photos, W. H. Ballard

Whether your vacation choice is just to loaf and look or to find exciting things to do, the Southwest Harbor and Tremont area offers you an endless variety. Excellent hotels, inns and restaurants — Boat supply, repair and building headquarters.



Tremont

THINGS TO SEE AND DO — Fish in salt or fresh water amid beautiful scenery, rent a boat, take the ferry trip to Swans Island. Sail! Enjoy tennis, golf, mountain trails, swimming, picnics or camping. Visit a pottery. Watch yachts and fishing boats. Put yourself in Maine's happiest vacation scene.

THE POTTERY — Rts. 102 and 198
 Individual Stoneware by The Dunlaps

TREMONT AREA

SEAL COVE GARAGE
 Foreign Car Specialists

LATTY COVE LOBSTER POUND
 and Latty Cove Log Cabins

RICH BROS. BOAT SHOP, Duck Cove
 New Construction — Repairs — Storage

TREMONT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

McEACHERN & HUTCHINS —
 McKINLEY
 Building Supplies — Contracting

C. H. RICH COMPANY — McKINLEY
 FRESH AND FROZEN CHARRMELAT

TREMONT AREA

THE MARINER — McKINLEY
 A Quaint Inn — Gracious Dining

BASS HARBOR BOAT YARD
 Custom-Built Pleasure Boats

H. G. REED, Inc. — McKINLEY
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SOUTHWEST HARBOR AREA

RONALD RICH BOAT SHOP
 Specializing in 20' — 36' Sport Fishermen

HENRY R. HINCKLEY & COMPANY
 MAINE'S MOST COMPLETE BOATYARD

SOUTHWEST HARBOR AREA

CLAREMONT HOTEL
 June 15 — September 15

LAWRENCE S. ROBINSON COMPANY
 Real Estate and Insurance

HARBOR VIEW MOTEL
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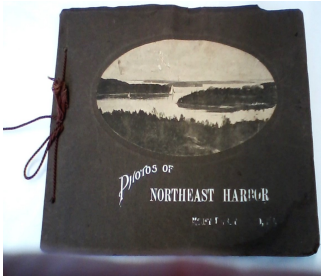
**SOUTHWEST HARBOR
 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

SOUTHWEST BOAT CORPORATION
 Yacht Building — Repairs — Storage

THE BOATHOUSE — Sailboats —
 Power Boats For Sale and For Rent

Here is a list of our latest acquisitions and those who donated them.

1. DVD, *Ralph Stanley: An Eye for Wood*. From Jeff Dobbs Productions.
2. Memoir, *Letters to Lauralee* by Doug Norwood. From Jane Adams.
3. Photo album, *Photos of Northeast Harbor*, dated 1904, I.T. Moore, Photographer. Donor unknown.
4. Postcards: Two of Ellsworth city hall and Congregational church; 2 seascapes of Southwest Harbor. Donor unknown.
5. Document about the history of Greening Island. From Robert Esty.
6. Three-ring binder of photos from 2010 Sports Show Night/50th reunion of Pemetie High School Class of 1960. From Diana Pinkham in memory of her husband Fred Pinkham.
7. Pemetie High School Maine State Champs Class M Basketball 1957 sweater owned by Wayne Mitchell. From his daughter Theresa Mitchell.
8. Invitation to the annual Gay Nineties Ball, dated 1956. From Dottie and Warren Worcester.
9. Two files of the George Lewis family ancestry. From Jean Lewis Hanscom.
10. Obituary of former board member Bruce Komusin in the *Mount Desert Islander*, February 26, 2015.
11. A collection of basketball information, including a history of basketball in Southwest Harbor, that belonged to Marilyn Carroll LaHaye. From Jim and Maxine Carroll.
12. Thirteen garments, including aprons, christening gowns, slips, skirts, and undergarments, were passed down in the family from Ada Clark Parker (Deacon Henry H. Clark's daughter, who lived from 1850 to 1917) to the donor, Roberta "Bobby" Alexander Lyman. Bobby is Ada's great granddaughter. They were from the old Parker house on Clark's Point, which was torn down in the 1960's. From Roberta Lyman of Carlisle, MA.
13. Mallet ice sluiceway spike. From John Jacobson.
14. A WWII Air Alert group photo from the collection of Marilyn Carroll LaHaye. From Jim and Maxine Carroll.



Front row left to right: Maud Phillips, Jean Hamblen, Addie Gilley, Elizabeth Lawler, Charlotte Lurvey, Evelyn Dunham, Marjorie Robinson, Elizabeth King; **Back row:** Mary H. Carroll, Maggie Newman, Maud Sullivan, Eleanor Gilley, Ruth Herrick, Irene Closson, Ora Seavey, Effie Rice, Gussie Chalmers.

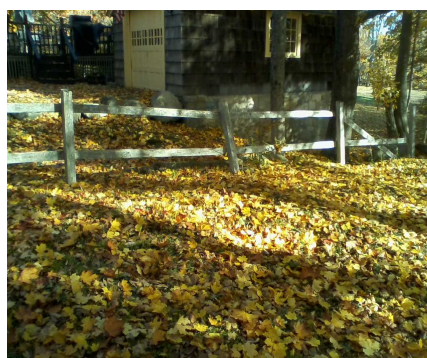




Our historical society has undertaken the renewal of the Old Burying Ground on High Road directly across from the Congregational church. Its designation as the oldest public burying ground on Mount Desert Island merits some details of how it came to be.

Ebenezer Eaton was the first full-time minister of the Congregational church (1801). He bought 270 acres, known today as Clark Point, for his personal use but generously allowed parishioners to bury their dead on what was then a sunny hillside. Today the town owns the cemetery.

The cemetery is divided into two levels. The lower level is the older section where there was apparently little regard for an organized layout. The oldest marked gravesite to be seen there today is that of Abigail Eaton, Consort of Reverend Eaton, 1830; the newest is that of Julia S. Freeman Crockett, 1910. There are several unmarked graves, presumably of strangers who died on passing ships. Mrs. Seth Thornton (nee Nellie Carroll) goes into detail about the 36 headstones there when her book was published (1938, Pgs. 210-213). In his *Cemeteries of Cranberry Isles and the Towns of Mount Desert Island*, published in 2000, Thomas Vining lists “46 gravestones and other markers,” many unidentified or unreadable.



Over the years, changes have been made periodically. For example, the Freeman and Haynes families had fenced in the upper level sometime in the 1870's, and in 1890 Mrs. Emily Robinson Farnsworth organized a donation drive to erect a more extensive fence. An unfortunate change was the neglect resulting when in 1900 the Mt. Height cemetery opened, and many graves were moved there. The use of the High Road cemetery had been discontinued at some point because no surrounding land could be bought to enlarge it. Nevertheless, in 1930 summer resident Mrs. George A. Rhoads of Wilmington, Delaware, raised money to clean it up. The work was done by George Norwood.

A final observation by Nell Thornton goes to the human story to be gleaned from the headstones: “...note how many young wives, little children and young people died in the early days. A plague of diphtheria swept this town and the nearby settlements in the late [18] fifties and many homes were made desolate as rows of little graves in the old yards show. Contagion was unheard of and people attended public funerals and went home to carry the dread disease to their own little ones. A Bible record in one family shows that 5 children, all the young parents had, died at that time within a week or so.” (Pg. 213)

Information in this article is taken from Mrs. Seth L. Thornton's Traditions and Records: Southwest Harbor and Somesville, Mount Desert Island, Maine, 1938, unless otherwise noted.

ITEMS FOR SALE

BOOKS

RECOLLECTIONS OF SOUTHWEST HARBOR, MAINE, 1885-1894. By Jesse L. Parker, 1955. Edited by John P. and Rebecca D. Burnham, 2010. 52 pages. 8 1/2" x 11" spiral bound. This book is also for sale at our presentations; at Sawyer's Market and at Carroll Drugs, both in Southwest Harbor; and on our website: **SWHHS.org**.

Members \$11

Non-members \$12

Please add \$3 for shipping.

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD—MANSET AND SEAWALL. 2015. 160 pages with compact disc. 8 1/2" 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 Drugs 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**.

Members \$33

Non-members \$35

Please add \$4 for shipping.

DVD'S

The DVD's are recordings of some of our summer programs. We now have seven programs available:

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

Members \$11

Non-members \$12

Please add \$3 for shipping.

Orders for any of the above items should be sent to Southwest Harbor Historical Society, P. O. Box 272, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

There is still time to send in your dues for the 2015 membership year. **The date above your name on the address page shows when your membership is up.** 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.**