

SOUTHWEST HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The Sou'west Voyage

Norwood Cove Greening Island Southwest Harbor Manset Seawall
Published February, June, November February 2020

MOM & POP GROCERY STORES

The recent article in *The Mount Desert Islander* about the 75th anniversary of Gott's Store reminded me that back in 2011 our historical society had a program on mom and pop stores with much comment from the audience. The only record we have of that program is video clips that don't get any exposure or distribution. So what follows is information from that program about mom and pop stores. Some of this many of you will already know; I hope that there will be something new, or known and already forgotten, in what you see here. Wherever possible, the information has been supplemented by photographs. I love photographs. Also, those stores highlighted here are only a small portion of those chosen for the program. Maybe more choices in future newsletters. (*Henryetta Ponczek, Editor*)

BOYINGTON BROTHERS MARKET (ALSO BOYNTON BROTHERS)



An article in the July 28, 1960 *Bar Harbor Times* started this way: "Originally established by Mr. Lawrence Boyington, in 1935, Boyington Bros. Market is a delight to people throughout this area, who are satisfied with only the very best in groceries and provisions....In 1946, Mr. Boyington's three sons, Baxter, Horace, and Blake combined in taking over the active management of the business. Since the sad passing of their brother Blake, in 1954, the two remaining brothers have dedicated themselves to a policy of maintaining the quality of excellence in all their dealings, which characterized the aims and ambitions of their father and their brother in days gone by." The store was located on Clark Point Road across from where the post office is now.



A more personal history came to us in a note from Nancy Boyington Corliss. "They sold a full line of groceries, including specialty cut meat, fresh fruit and vegetables, which adorned and decorated the front

Cont'd on Page 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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As I walk through the newly painted former sanctuary, it is exciting to see so much progress in the building. While 2019 was a busy year, 2020 promises to be even more eventful with our focus on the steeple project.

I want to welcome two new board members—Julie Fernald and Grace Klausky. They both bring valuable talent to enhance our board as we plan our 2020 schedule of events. With this being the bicentennial year for the State of Maine Statehood, we hope to coordinate with other local celebrations of this historic event. We are welcoming suggestions from our community for this celebration and/or upcoming programs and special events.

While we continually look for grants to apply for, I am happy to share that we did receive a donation from the Lynam Trust Grant. We also received monies from the Town of Southwest Harbor which helped with operating costs in our first year.

On behalf of the Southwest Harbor Historical Society, and personally, I thank everyone for the ongoing support of the Capital Campaign, your membership, and any donations to our collection of archives.

Aimee Williams, 207-244-7735
aimeewilliams363@gmail.com

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Capital Campaign and Fundraising plans have been ongoing this winter. Some of the projects we were able to complete from our Capital Campaign:

- The entryway has been remodeled to be an inviting area to greet members and guests to the Meetinghouse.
- The entrance to the restroom has been relocated for easy access to the public.
- The former sanctuary has been painted by Rob Hebron of Full House Painting. It is now ready to be an exhibit area for our artifacts in addition to programs and events.
- The new Manset Meetinghouse sign in front of the building.

We have had a preliminary visit with a professional museum consultant to assist in the planning and design of exhibit spaces in the Manset Meetinghouse. They would also provide recommendations for the next steps and resources for additional work in the two spaces to improve the use of the former church and Gleaners Hall.

Our most ambitious, but necessary project, will be the repair of the listing steeple. We have received a grant that allowed us to have a professional assessment of the project. We are now in the process of reaching out to find interested contractors.

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

Alan & Diane Amendt
Mary Beal
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Barbara & Mark Campbell
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In Memory Donations. In Memory of

Jarvis Newman by John & Carole Wojcik
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Richard Dimond
Jennie Jordan Cline by Andy Cline

Carolyn Dolliver by Lawrence Cole
Peg Walls by Susan Covino Buell
Patricia Cousins Waters by Candace Schuller
Anne Carroll DeGoyler by Al & Donna Michaud
Margaret Reed Brown by Grace Bernice Klausky

windows. There was always a cheese wheel, hanging sides of beef and a full line of SS Pierce products. The store always catered to the summer people, and at the end was only open during the summer months. I remember seeing my dad and his brother, Horace, and Bud loading up the paneled pick-up truck with neatly arranged boxes of groceries, which were delivered to people's 'cottages' and to the wharf and the mailboat for the Island customers. My mother, Barbara, and Aunt Nonie worked the crank cash register and adding machine, and I loved hearing some of the very funny stories of our beloved 'summer people' of those days. Beginning in 1961 my family lived over the store in the roomy apartment, with back rooms, which included a piano, and fun places to hide and play. My cousin Wanda (Jewett), my sister, Connie, and I and all our pals always enjoyed our tuna fish and pickles sandwiches upstairs and driving our parents crazy as we yelled out the windows to the street below!"



GOTT'S STORE Seventy-five years ago Ronald and Ava Gott, along with Ava's sister, Fern, and her husband John Leonard opened a small store in Southwest Harbor. The store opened October 8, 1944, selling groceries and beer. The latter was especially popular with many of the Tremont residents—their town was dry. Outside was a single gas pump. The store was a limited success. Stan Gott said, "If it hadn't been for Dad trapping beaver and Mother working the sardine factory, this store wouldn't be here today. Mom said they used to count the money on Sunday night to see if they had enough to open up on Monday morning. Some days gross sales

was nine dollars." After a few years of operation, the founders decided that there wasn't enough business to support two families and the Leonards pulled out. "We didn't close for anything," said Gott. "Mom walked over here, we lived in Bass Harbor, probably two miles away. She walked over one day on snowshoes to open it up thinking somebody may need gas." People gathered at the store then just like they do today. Stan Gott recounted how during one basketball tournament in Bangor there were so many people watching the television in the store that a man wanting to buy a loaf of bread had it thrown to him like a football because he couldn't get near the bread display.



Today the store is owned by Jenn Gott Gray, Tim Gott, and Carroll Lunt, Jr. There have been multiple additions to the store, including a kitchen, ice cream window, and a family home turned into employee housing on the premises. What started out as a grocery store has become a place to get prepared foods at reasonable prices, a boon to those with busy schedules. *(This info is taken from both The Mount Desert Islander, 10/17/2019 and our 2011 program.)*



SMITH'S GENERAL STORE
(ALSO "BEANIE'S STORE")

In 1945 Clarence Smith and his wife, Robena Beal Smith, bought what was then called the Little Store in Manset (photo at left). It had been owned and operated by Jessie Farrar as a store and restaurant. The Smiths managed it as Smith's General Store and lived in a small apartment in the back of the store. Clarence built the shelves which held the groceries and sundries. They also sold frozen foods, meats, and gasoline. While Clarence was alive, the store was open from 6:30 AM to 10 PM, but when Clarence died, Robena cut back to 8 AM to 6 PM. Clarence died in 1967 but Robena continued to run it until 1983. She then sold the store to James and Jeanne Edgerly, and it was renamed Double J Grocery and Deli. The store closed some time in 2006 when it became a residence.

Al Michaud, a nephew of Clarence and Robena Smith, remembers with surprisingly clarity what it was like in the late '40's and early '50's to visit the store. He and his cousin Ed Smith, and sometimes Dennis Ellis, would work stocking shelves, the payment for which would be a five-cent soda or bag of King Cole potato chips. Other draws for a young person at that time were the selection of penny candies and the two racks of ten-cent comic books—Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Dennis the Menace, Archie. He remembers that Aunt Beanie was always patient with children making the all-important candy choice. There was also the tub-dipped ice cream.

The store sold clothing, typical drugstore sundries, cigarettes (soft pack at 25 cents), food, even Amoco gas at 13 cents a gallon, and had a vegetable stand with turnips, squash, and potatoes. Al's mother picked raspberries on their home acreage which she put into quart containers to sell at the store. He says usually it was the summer people who bought them. The meat counter held luncheon meats as well as cut-to-order meats. Clarence Smith would buy a hind quarter of beef in Bangor and cut it into smaller portions for the cold case. He'd also grind his own hamburger meat. There was a cheese wheel on the counter with a see-through cover where you could buy a wedge which would



then be wrapped in brown paper and tied with string from a cone-shaped holder hanging from the ceiling. Pickled pigs feet were in a barrel with a fork hanging on the side to make your own choice. Smith made twice weekly deliveries, at first in a station wagon, later in a pickup truck, mainly from Manset Corner to Seawall. In the morning he'd stop at houses and get their orders, or people might call in an order. Then he'd work quickly to deliver the orders by the afternoon. In that time before credit cards, people would run up an account and pay about every week.

But the store wasn't just about what it could sell. Every Friday night local men would assemble to watch the fights on the small black-and-white Emerson TV sitting on the meat counter. Smith had had a professional horseshoe pit built at the side of the parking lot and during the summer men would play in the evenings. The picture above shows the location as is today. The building is planned to be a bakery operated by Steve Anastasia who currently operates as Old Dog Bakery of Somesville. There is no firm opening date.

A Reader Remembers Clark's Dairy from Our November Newsletter

I remember well when Jack Clark delivered our milk on Clark Point Road. And as an aside, I actually delivered milk from that same dairy in the early '70's. We were staying in Somesville for the summers (and ironically, next door to Fernald's Dairy) and I delivered milk as a summer job to help make ends meet as a teacher in Vermont for the rest of the year. My kids, Andy and Kara, used to love to ride in the milk truck on my early morning route. Of course, no doubt that would never be allowed in this day and time.

Some of my milk load was taken to a distributor in Bar Harbor, whose wife happened to be an old high school flame of mine. She often would be playing the piano upstairs when I delivered the milk so it was like being serenaded to the "Milk Bucket Boogie".

Hank Joyce was a memorable employee of Clark's Dairy. He wore his hat a little differently than most and as I recall the visor was tilted upwards. He was a well-liked person and waved to everyone while on his route.

Most of my milk went to full-time residents of Southwest Harbor, but I delivered to "summer folks", as well, who were concentrated on the Fernald's Point Road. One home where I especially enjoyed delivering belonged to my old high school principal, Willis Furtwengler.

Even though the job required an early morning alarm call, it gave me afternoons to fish and was fun for two or three summers. My kids still recall those days of Little League Baseball, swimming at the Pond's End and "milking with Pop" with fondness.

NORTHEAST DOCUMENT CONSERVATION CENTER INSERVICE

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Presenters from NEDCC, Becky Geller on left and Stephanie Garafalo.

On October 25 and 26 the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) held a two-day inservice at our meetinghouse. NEDCC specializes in treating all paper-based collections materials, including books, maps, photographs, scrapbooks, architectural drawings, works of art on paper, etc. In 2014 they added audio preservation. They welcome clients from across the United States.



History Trust, the island-wide consortium of 11 collecting organizations, was behind NEDCC coming to Manset. History Trust paid for whatever costs were incurred by our society. Lynne Birlem, our board member representative to History Trust, managed all the physical details of the inservice and did it well, thank you very much. Here she is taking her lunch break. She engaged Marty Williams of the Cafe Dry Dock to supply lunch both days. Good food engenders good ideas.



On the right there's John Burnham, one of our board members and our archivist, chowing down after spending the morning learning how to save our artifacts. I'm sure he deserves a good lunch for his efforts on our behalf.

The inservice focused on preservation of our collections, including assessing our storage space needs, exhibits, and equipment needs, as well as handling, reformatting, and digitizing paper-based and photo collections. It ran from 9 AM to 4 PM each day; 25 people attended.

Jesse L. Parker, in *Recollections of Southwest Harbor, Maine, 1885-1894*, describes what he remembers of town meetings when he was a boy:

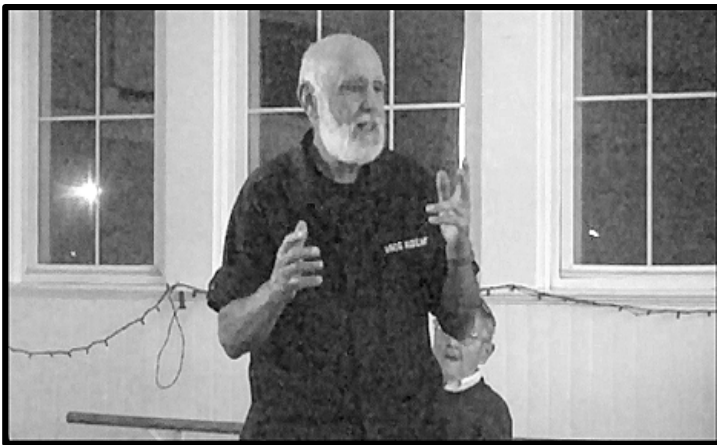
“In 1890 Southwest Harbor was part of the town of Tremont which comprised all the territory south of a line from Somes Sound just above Valley Cove across the lower part of Echo Lake and the lower part of Long Pond and continuing to the western shore of the island to the north of Seal Cove.

“Town meetings were held in March for two or three days. Schools were closed and the church people served dinners. Children were allowed to go to the meetings with their parents. These meetings were held in a large hall on the lower floor of a building where Whitney’s [electric] store...is now located. This building was later burned. As tobacco chewing was a general custom at that time the floors would be covered with sawdust which absorbed the tobacco juice and the mud from dirty shoes.

“The ‘haves’ and ‘have nots’ existed then as now with the same characteristics. The Clark and Parker families who were large property owners and tax payers were generally against big appropriations, while most of the people from the west side of the island who owned comparatively inexpensive property would, as a rule, vote for more improvements. There were many warm and witty debates. The fundamental differences in the view points of the different parts of the town increased and later caused a division of the town of Tremont into two parts.”

Recollections of Southwest Harbor, Maine, 1885-1894. By Jesse L. Parker, 1955. Edited by John P. and Rebecca D. Burnham, 2010. Published by Southwest Harbor Historical Society. Pp. 38-39.

BOARD MEMBER IN THE NEWS



In November board member Rich Viera spoke to Tremont Elementary School students in observance of Veterans Day. Rich has been visiting the school for several years. He served 33 years in the US Coast Guard where he reached the rank of commander. He arrived in our area in 1962 as a lighthouse keeper for Great Duck Island. By telling the children stories about his father, a veteran of WWII, he prompted them to speak about their own parents. Rich’s past as a coastguardsman also was the basis for an exhaustive program he presented back in 2013 as part of our summer program series. (*Here he is at that presentation.*) It is available on a DVD. See Page 8.



A NEW LOOK The building that has had various names over its long history is now the Manset Meetinghouse, Home of the Southwest Harbor Historical Society. Past names included Manset Union Church, Rock Church, Manset Baptist Church, Manset Union Meetinghouse. A new sign was erected this summer thanks to the efforts of Kathe Walton, Al Michaud, and Tidal Graphics. The interior of the building is also undergoing an “updating” of sorts. The sanctuary has been painted in colors described in a 1937 newspaper article. “The ceiling is white, the walls cream...making it much brighter and more in keeping with the typical colonial architecture to which this Church building belongs.”



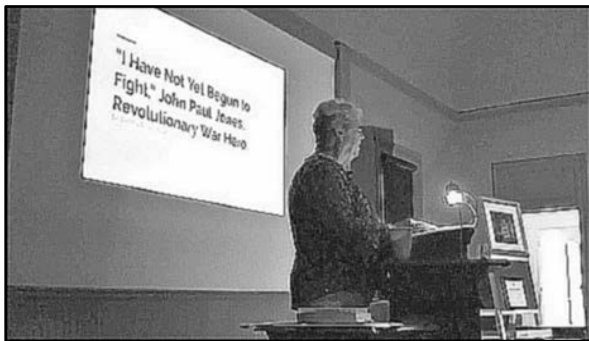
Remembering Pemetic
June 28 Phil Whitney,
Sharon Lawson, Kathe Walton

Kathe supplied many of the photos for the program but chose to remain off camera while all three people related their experiences while at Pemetic. The program was appropriate because the Pemetic alumni were holding their annual reunion.



Lobstering 101, Plus
July 17 John Stanley and Holly Masterson

John brought his props and his memories of fishing as a young man; Holly brought photos of her work as a sternman. Both are Southwest Harbor-based lobstermen. John is a member of the town's Harbor Committee, and Holly is now third on the waiting list for her own license after 11 years on that list. A DVD of the program is available. See Page 8.

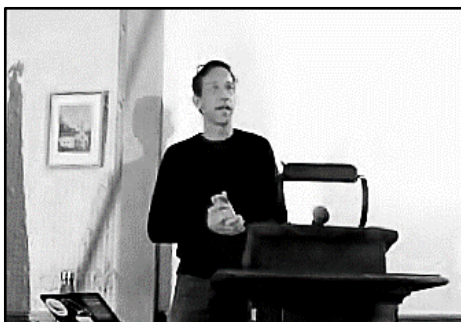
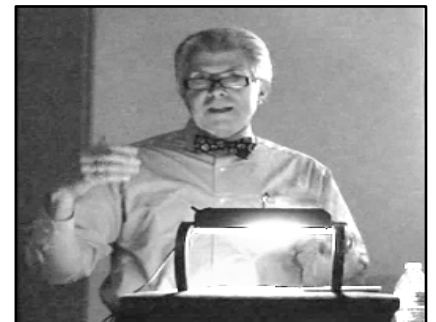


John Paul Jones, Revolutionary War Hero
August 21 Cynthia Brown Robertson

Cynthia is a descendant of John Brown who is buried in the Manset burying ground behind our Manset Meetinghouse. Brown crewed on John Paul Jones' *Bonhomme Richard* during its famous battle against the British vessel *Serapis* in the North Sea.

The Evolution of the Claremont Hotel
September 18 Maurice "Joe" Marshall

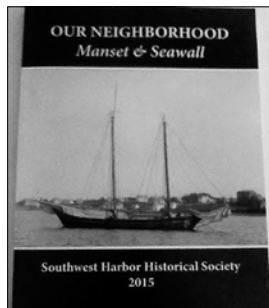
Joe took the audience through the many changes to the Claremont from 1884 to the present day, including how close it came to being demolished because of renovation costs. Joe's grandparents bought the Claremont in 1908. It was, therefore, inevitable that as a teen he would work there. He had many photos that we had not seen before. A DVD of the program is available. See Page 8.



Past Insults, Planned Restorations, and Preparing for an Uncertain Future in the Marshall Brook Watershed
October 16 Brian Henkel, Wild Acadia Project Coordinator

Before beginning his presentation Brian placed cards and pens on audience chairs for people to jot down any questions or concerns that might occur to them. The discussion centered around changes people have seen within the watershed, possible solutions to problems, and the priorities of those who live within the watershed area. Audience questions were about well water quality, invasive species, ownership and responsibility for land conditions, and the role of Acadia National Park.

***Program dates for the 2020 series are June 17, July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 21 at 7 PM. Topics to be announced in our June newsletter.**

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 website, **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

NEW Lobstering 101, Plus; John Stanley & Holly Masterson, Speakers

NEW The Evolution of the Claremont Hotel; Maurice "Joe" Marshall, Speaker

Members \$11

Non-members \$12

Please add \$3 per item for shipping.

Orders for the book 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 website or simply write a note with your request.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

There is still time to send in your dues for 2018 and 2019. **The date above your name on the blue 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.**

WEB SITE INFORMATION (swhhs.org)

Our website 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.

Officers: Aimee Williams, Pres.; Leslie Watson, VP; Patty Pinkham, Treas.; Henryetta Ponczek, Sec'y.; Board Members: John Burnham, Karen Craig, Julie Fernald, G. Bernice Klausky, Bernie Mauer, Al Michaud, Ralph Stanley, Rich Viera, Kathe Walton.

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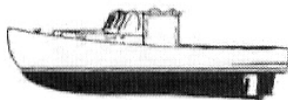
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I wish to contribute an additional \$_____ to help the historical society document, preserve, and present the history of Norwood Cove, Southwest Harbor, Greening Island, Manset, and Seawall.

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