

The Sou' West Voyage

TRADITIONS AND RECORDS

Norwood Cove

Southwest Harbor

Greening Island

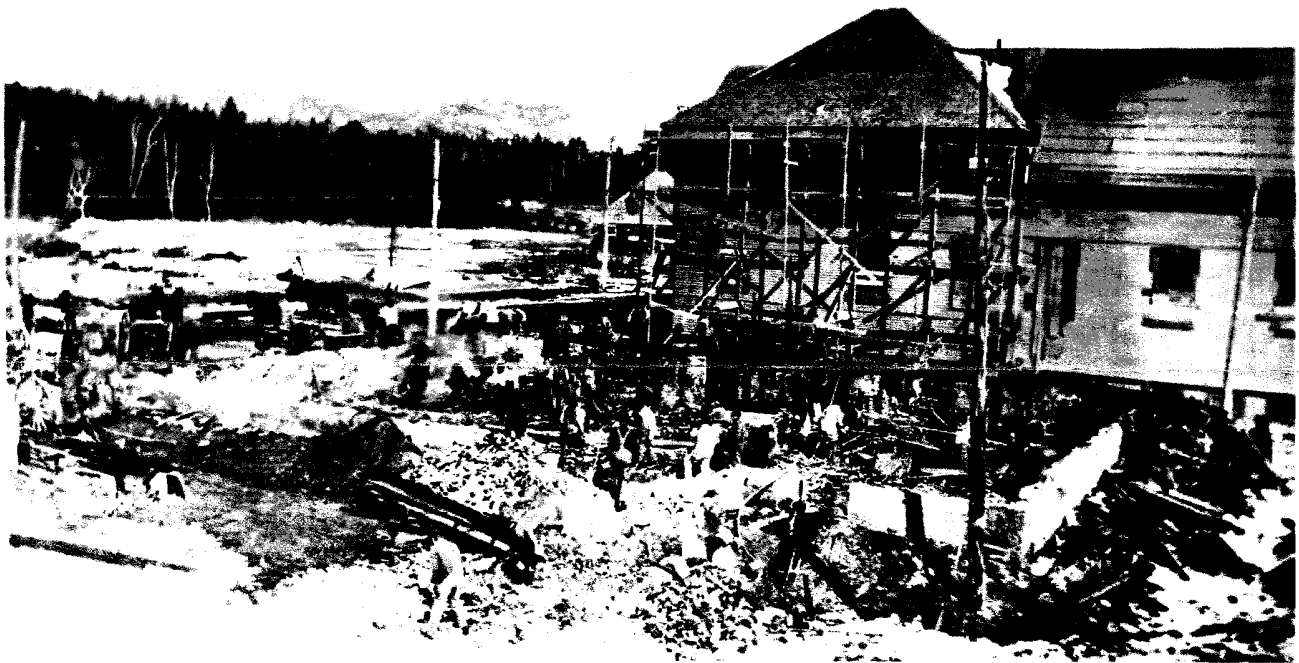
Manset

Seawall

February 2013

SOUTHWEST HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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SWHHS.org



The worst fire in Southwest Harbor's history leveled much of the business district in the early morning hours of March 27, 1922, destroying \$150,000 worth of property. Starting in the Holmes Store, the fire spread to the Carroll, Ralph, and Lawton buildings as well as the Odd Fellows Hall across the street. All five structures were lost, while the Dudley residence, the Park Theater, and the Masonic Hall were badly damaged. The fire was stopped at the Masonic Hall through the valiant efforts of local volunteer firefighters. In the following months the Masonic Hall was repaired and downtown commercial blocks were rebuilt, including a new Odd Fellows Hall. (Courtesy of Southwest Harbor Library). From Earle G. Shettleworth Jr. and Lydia B. Vandenberg, MOUNT DESERT ISLAND: SOMESVILLE, SOUTHWEST HARBOR AND NORTHEAST HARBOR, 2001.

Welcome to the year 2013! This is my first report as the society's new president, and at this time I would like to thank everyone for your continued support of the Southwest Harbor Historical Society. Without our members and supporters we would not be able to do all of the wonderful things that we do.

One of the many things that we are incredibly proud of would be our summer programs. We had many interactive and informative programs that were put on in 2012, and we were very pleased with the support and turnout for them. Our upcoming summer programs are shaping up to be just as fun and interesting, and we hope that you will all join us for those.

Another thing that happens thanks to both your support and the hard work of our members is this newsletter. Due to time constraints and other responsibilities, I have decided to give up publishing the newsletter and Henryetta Ponczek has generously agreed to take over the job. I personally would like to thank Henryetta for putting in the time and energy that the newsletter requires and I have total faith that she will do a fantastic job.

One of our goals for the coming year (and beyond) is to continue working on the ground work to create a museum for the public to be able to view and enjoy our collection. Our collection has grown a lot recently, and we cannot wait to be able share more of these wonderfully nostalgic items with everyone. Until we are able to find a space for the museum, the displays that we currently have in the Chamber room will continue to be available to the public during the months the chamber's main office is open.

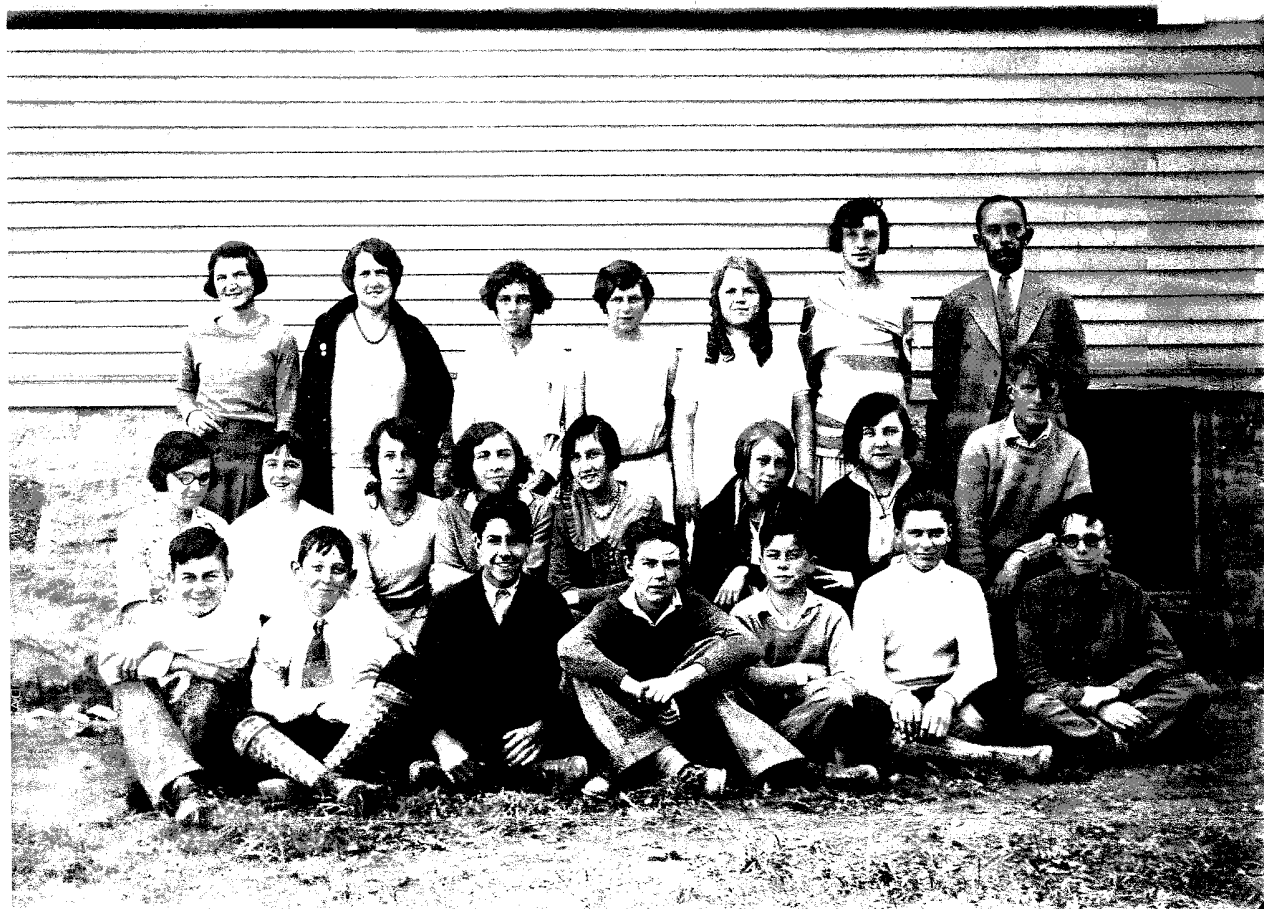
Again, we would like to thank you for your continued support and we hope that 2013 is as informative and exciting as 2012 was.

Respectfully,

Janet Patton, President

Officers: Janet Patton, Pres.; Karen Craig, V.P.; Wayne Patton, Treas.; Henryetta Ponczek, Sec.; Board Members: Becky Burnham, John Burnham, Bob Davis, Kathe Walton, Jack Gilley, Susi Homer, Bruce Komasin, Bernie Mauger, Ralph Stanley, Rich Viera, Phil Whitney, Aimee Williams, Warren Worcester.

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.



This picture of the Manset Elementary School in the early '30's was sent to us by Elaine Sargent Spurling. BACK ROW: Lisa Young, Elsa Parker, Alice (Dolliver) Robinson, Fern (Rumill) Leonard, Doris Birlen, Nettie (Beal) Vine, Dwight Perkins. MIDDLE ROW: Velora (Beal) Ellis, Vera (Beal) Rich, ---- Hinckley, Althea Hopkins, Margaret Bickford, Eunice (Hadlock) Gilley, Joyce Bennett, Billy Benson. FRONT ROW: Lyford Rich, Richard Hopkins, Dicky Dolliver, George ----, Johnny Leonard, Norman Farrar, George Mitchell. If anyone knows the first, maiden, or married names of those pictured, please let us know.

COLLECTIONS AND ACQUISITIONS REPORT, 2012

The acquisitions project was started in the late spring of 2012 and has been going forward steadily since then. Everything listed as donations of historical items in the secretary's minutes since the beginning of the organization is being kept on a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. In addition to items such as a rocking chair, baseball, and a fog horn, many newspaper articles and other paper items are being added as well and will be cataloged and made accessible. All items found in the collection area have been handled, described, given a catalog number, and entered into the database. Major items are in numbered boxes, and paper materials are in the filing cabinet in the Society area in the Chamber of Commerce room at Harbor House. At present over 400 items have been cataloged and twenty boxes of collections have been assigned numbers. A paper copy of the finding list is also in the Society area in the Chamber of Commerce room. In the future, the project will be refining the existing list and adding to it as donations are received. The list will eventually be added to our web site.

John Burnham

In RECOLLECTIONS OF SOUTHWEST HARBOR, MAINE, 1885-1894, Jesse L. Parker recalls the winter sports that young people enjoyed. In this February issue it's interesting to read about them.



“There were many opportunities to use sleds in the fields and also on the roads as there was comparatively little traffic. I had a small sled which was considered to be very fast. The nearest hill was on the road to the Dirigo. Under favorable conditions it was possible to start opposite my grandfather's cottage [on Clark Pt. Rd.] and coast down by our house and around the cove. When we were more ambitious we went up to the first hill on the Seal Cove Road and once in a great while went to Carroll's Hill on the Somesville Road. When the roads were icy the speed down Carroll's Hill was so great that it was dangerous to start at the top. A few drivers would allow us to tie our sleds to the rear of horse drawn vehicles and get a tow. Many people would not allow this because it was an accident hazard. There were no toboggan sleds and the nearest thing to skis was the use of barrel staves.

“Opportunities for skating were poor; the nearest place was a small pond beyond the Dirigo Hotel. The water was so shallow in this pond that we were allowed to go there even when the ice was very thin. On special occasions skating was allowed on an artificial ice pond after the ice was harvested. Our skates were very crude. The old style ones were held on by a screw on the heel of the skate which fitted into a hole bored into the heel of a shoe. Straps were fastened across the toes and around the ankles, but did not give good ankle support. The better skates had a cuplike leather piece in which the heel fitted. These could be strapped in such a way that they would not come off.

Continued on Page 5

All programs are on the third Wednesday of the month at 7 PM at Harbor House on Main Street. Refreshments are served, free to all. Although the schedule may change, a notice of each month's presentation is listed on a sidewalk board in front of the Bar Harbor Bank and Trust.

May: Memories of local war veterans

June: Stanley Fish Wharf

July: Seawall, Wonderland, Ship Harbor areas

August: Ralph Stanley remembers

September: US Coast Guard in Southwest Harbor

October: Willis H. Ballard, Photographer

You may contact us concerning these programs, or any issue, by email: swhhistory@yahoo.com, or write to P.O. Box 272, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679. We also have a website : SWHHS.org.

WINTER PASTIMES, cont'd

“The ice on Long Pond was thick enough to support horses and sleighs. I once drove from the lower end of Long Pond up the pond, across the land and across another pond which extended almost to Somesville.

“Fresh water smelts and a few trout were caught at Long Pond during the winter. Several holes would be cut through the ice and lines tied to a stick. A fisherman then waited in a windbreak from which he could watch all of his poles. Whenever a movement of a stick indicated that a fish had taken the bait the line would be pulled in.

“In winter time flounders bore into the mud and they would be speared by men using long poles with a barbed spike on the end. They could not see the flounders but stabbed around at random with fairly good success.”

Jesse Parker's narrative has been edited by his grandnephew John Burnham. The 56-page result is available for purchase at Carroll's Drugstore, at the Southwest Harbor Public Library, on our website (SWHHS.org), or by using the order form in this newsletter.

One of our very successful programs in August of 2012 dealt with the ice cutting industry in Southwest Harbor. Chris Lawler was someone who continued producing and delivering ice into the 1950's.



Originally Capt. Benjamin Robinson constructed a pond on his property and established an ice delivery business. The business passed to Henry Tracy and then to Chris Lawler. The pond is located at the south end of Main Street at the end of Chris's Pond lane. It was a valuable resource of block ice. The ice would be cut and stored under heaps of sawdust in an icehouse at the head of the pond. It would then be delivered by horse and wagon to homes and fish wharves all over the western side of Mount Desert Island. But the pond was more than just a source of ice. In the summer the water was drained, and by late fall locals looked for bog cranberries there. It has also been an ice skating pond.

With so many local memories attached to Chris's Pond, it is no wonder that people did not take kindly to the proposed changes to the pond. After Chris died, William Sklaroff bought the property. When he moved away after only a few years, he donated the pond to the town with the condition that it be renamed Uncle Bill's Pond. Although this may be its official name, it is not remembered that way.

A second proposed change was that of a parking lot. Townspeople were assured that they could still have a skating pond, but they weren't convinced. In 1987 resident John Letcher led a citizens' group that blocked the proposal. Back in 1989 Nan Lincoln wrote an article for the Bar Harbor Times saying that volunteers were maintaining the pond for recreation: draining the pond in summer, cutting weeds and reeds, and snowplowing the surface when necessary.

Chris's Pond, as it is still labeled, is still there for anyone to visit.

Much of the research herein came from Nan Lincoln, "Chris's Pond: A town's memories are etched in ice," THE BAR HARBOR TIMES, January 12, 1989.

Baked Trout in Wine

6 frozen rainbow trout, thawed
2 T. lemon juice
Salt and pepper
1 c. dry white wine
2 T. chopped fresh parsley

1/4 c. sliced green onions or scallions
2 T. fine dry bread crumbs
1/4 c. melted butter or margarine
Fresh dill
6 thin slices lemon

Heat oven to 400F. Wash and dry trout. Brush inside of trout with some of the lemon juice and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Arrange trout in a shallow baking dish or broiler pan and brush with remaining lemon juice; sprinkle with salt and pepper. Pour wine into the bottom of the dish. Sprinkle fish evenly with parsley and onions. Sprinkle with bread crumbs lightly and spoon melted butter over each. Bake, uncovered, 25 minutes or until fish can be easily flaked with a fork. Place on a serving platter and garnish with fresh dill and lemon juice.

Betty King

Apple Cake

3 T. butter
1 c. sugar
1 egg, beaten
1/2 t. ground cinnamon
1/2 t. ground nutmeg
1/2 t. salt

1 t. baking soda
1 c. flour
3 c. peeled, diced apples
1/2 c. chopped nuts
1 t. vanilla

Cream butter and sugar; add eggs and mix well. Combine dry ingredients; add to creamed mixture. Stir in apples, nuts, and vanilla. Pour into a greased 8" square pan. Bake at 350F for 40 to 45 minutes. Serve hot or cold. Good with whipped cream or ice cream.

Pam Scott

ITEMS FOR SALE

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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.

Members \$11

Non-members \$12

DVD'S

The DVD's are recordings of some of our summer programs. Although at this time there is only one DVD available, more are in the works. Our current DVD features RALPH STANLEY talking about the Prohibition era and how it was "observed" in Southwest Harbor. The recording was made on August 19, 2008 and runs approximately one hour.

Members \$11

Non-members \$12

Orders should be sent to Southwest Harbor Historical Society, P. O. Box 272, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679. Please add \$3 shipping cost per item.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues for the 2013 year are due now. Your dues and your continued interest keep us going. When you pay your dues, you will receive a membership card, and there will be a star on your address label. No star? We hope to hear from you. The membership form is on the cover sheet of the newsletter.