

# *The Sou'West Voyage*

## TRADITIONS AND RECORDS

Norwood Cove

Southwest Harbor

Greening Island

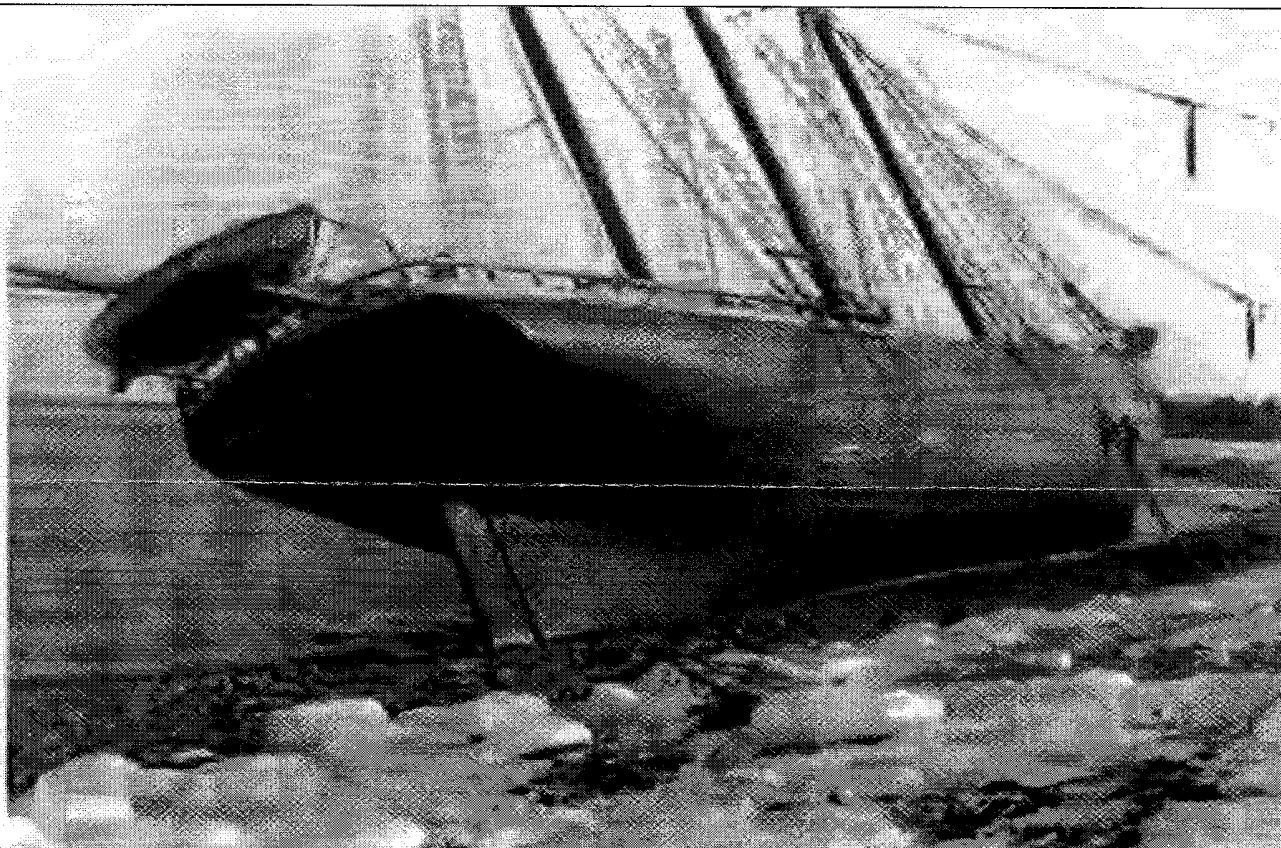
Manset

Seawall

February 2014

SOUTHWEST HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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**SWHHS.org**



SWHPL#11044

### **THREE MASTED SCHOONER "FRANCES PARSONS" AGROUND AT KING'S POINT, MANSET**

The three masted schooner "Frances Parsons" was built in 1919 at Cheverie, Nova Scotia. According to the Bar Harbor Times of February 4, 1925, the schooner went ashore at King's Point during a gale on the previous Friday. It lay in this dangerous position while coast guardsmen from the Cranberry Isle station stood by for action. The schooner had been in the harbor for three days awaiting favorable weather, which never came. She survived this ordeal and continued sailing until 1943.

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Now is the time of year we begin to put the summer programs together. There have been several suggestions from directors and membership. We really welcome these. Each program has a chairperson who works hard to make each program come alive. We are so pleased that the attendance at these has expanded tremendously. If you have suggestions or would like to have something included in the programs, please let me know (207-244-5267 or [kc232sw@yahoo.com](mailto:kc232sw@yahoo.com)), or contact any of the board of directors. Their names are listed at the bottom of this page.

We look forward to a fun-filled season of history that will make you want to know even more.

Karen Craig, President

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

Elene Hamblen Dolliver	by Agnes Dolliver Carr
Edna Jellison	by George Jellison, Jr.
Jack Madore	by Loretta Rogers
Elsie Phillips Marshall	by Maurice Joseph Marshall
Fred Pinkham	by Patty Pinkham

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Officers: Karen Craig, Pres.; Phil Whitney, V.P.; Bernie Mauger, Treas.; Henryetta Ponczek, Sec.; Board Members: Becky Burnham, John Burnham, Bob Davis, Jack Gilley, Wayne Gilley, Bruce Komusin, Janet Patton, Ralph Stanley, Rich Viera, Kathe Walton, 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. You may also visit our website: [SWHHS.org](http://SWHHS.org).

In October the society asked Steven Haynes of the Maine Granite Industry Historical Society Museum to speak to us. He is its founder and curator. The museum is located right here on the island in Mt. Desert on Beech Hill Crossroad. It is the only museum of its type and scope in Maine. In fact, the state recognizes Steve as an experienced, knowledgeable “hobbyist” (his word) on the history, procedures, and personalities of the industry. The state has occasion to refer people with questions to him. He gives credit to the men involved in the industry for building his store of knowledge and contributing to the exhibits in the museum.



At the age of 11 he began his lifelong apprenticeship in the art of stone cutting, grinding, and polishing. In the late 1960's he traveled all over the state into long idle granite quarries and mines where he collected specimens of historic stone. He also collected the tools of the trade. These things, as well as slides, oral history tapes, journals, books, and photographs, have formed the bases of the museum.

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Mrs. Seth Thornton in "Traditions and Records of Southwest Harbor and Somesville, Mount Desert Island, Maine" writes of the "Don Parsons" going aground. It seems unlikely that the same thing happened to two Parsons schooners, so we are assuming that the Don Parsons and the Frances Parsons are one and the same. Here is her account.

"It was the year when difficulties with miners and operators of coal mines had made coal scarce and expensive, and before the usual supply of fuel had been brought to Maine coast towns the shores were locked in the grip of a very cold winter and the harbors frozen. Wood prices were very high and people all along the coast were seriously inconvenienced if not actually suffering. The morning after the wreck of the Don (sic) Parsons, the citizens of Islesford found the eastern shore of the island three feet deep with coal brought up by the waves that had broken the ship in pieces. The news spread, channels were chopped through the ice in the harbors and boats came from many miles distant to gather some of the precious cargo. It was almost like the miracle of the manna. The coal was most welcome, but everybody regretted the loss of a noble ship. (p. 285)

### **GRANITE MUSEUM (cont'd)**

Included in this wealth of information are specimens of two quarries close to home: the Carroll Homestead quarry in Southwest Harbor and the Freeman quarry at Wonderland. At some time during the active occupation of the Carroll homestead, the Carrolls quarried stone for local building foundations. Even today Steven says that he can recognize those Southwest Harbor buildings that used Carroll granite. The granite is described as having pink, green, and medium gray color with an even texture.

The Freeman quarry at Wonderland was worked in the 1890's. Haywood Pierce leased the land from Freeman and put 80 men to work splitting out pavers for the streets of Portland. At the same time Pierce's brother was working on the Brooklyn bridge. Steven speculates that Freeman granite might have been used in some aspect of the bridge construction. The granite is brownish red in color.

Both types of granite are on display at the granite museum, as are dozens of others from around the country. The museum is accomplishing its stated mission of educating the public in the industry's history and in assisting in the preservation and restoration of historic buildings and monuments. At our presentation Steven gave us a taste of what he demonstrates frequently for groups at the museum, using traditional methods and tools of our forefathers so that they may not be forgotten. We are hoping to have a DVD of his presentation for sale by this summer.

## SOUTHWEST HARBOR

### PERSONAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS

Mrs. Norman J. Walsh

Telephone CH 4-5497

#### Reception

The officers of the Mt. Desert Congregational church and the Manset Union Church of Southwest Harbor will hold a reception for their new pastor, Rev. Bradford C. Payne, from 2:30 to 4 pm. Sunday afternoon in the Southwest Harbor Church meeting room. All parishioners and friends of the church are cordially invited.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Tate (nee Beverly Johnson) are the parents of a daughter Vicky Lynne born Saturday, December 22 at the MDI hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Wesley Reed and daughter, Carol, visited Mr. and Mrs. Donald Reed and family in Augusta Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Craig and two sons are spending Christmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Hupper in Portland.

Mrs. Leah Siverson of Providence, R. I. is spending the holidays with her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Norwood, at the home of her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Robbins.

Miss Enid Harris of the Pematic faculty left Friday to visit her parents at Woodstock, N. H. during the holidays.

Ronald Burgess, who is employed at Groton, Conn. arrived Sunday to spend the holidays with his wife and family and his father, Barclay Burgess.

Miss Natalie B. Mayo left last Friday to spend Christmas with her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell G. Lurvey, at Tucson, Arizona and will go on to spend a vacation at Acapulco, Mexico.

Mr. and Mrs. William J. Furtwengler sr. were Christmas dinner guests of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bryant, and Timothy at Brewer.

Mr. and Mrs. David Sargent are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Lennox Sargent for the holidays. Mrs. Sargent is a sophomore at Boston University and Mr. Sargent is a sophomore at Norwich University at Northfield, Vermont.

The young couple were married November 3 at St. Cecelia's Catholic church, Boston, Mass. by Rev. Father Cogavin.

Mr. and Mrs. William Smith

is spending the holidays with her parents.

Richard Waugh of Leland Powers school of Radio, television and theatre is home for the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Waugh.

Judith Hutchins of the Practical nursing school, Waterville is spending the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Hutchins.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Herrick and Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Johnson left to spend the holidays with their children.

The Herricks will visit their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Herrick at Sudbury, Mass. and their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Herrick, at East Hartford, Conn.

Christmas dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. H. Wesley Reed and Carol were Mr. and Mrs. Wesley E. Reed, Robert, Ronald and Debbie, Mrs. Harry Newman, Mrs. Eugene Reed of McKinley and Mrs. Mary Mitchell.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell White had as their guests over the holiday their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Sawyer of South Portland and their son Fred White of Newport, Rhode Island.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Johnson spent Christmas with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. James Hastings in Bangor.

Janet Wass of Farmington State Teachers College and Leighton Wass of Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont are spending the holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wass.

Becky Vine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Vine, arrived home from Kings College, Briarcliff Manor, N.Y. Sunday night to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Vine. Becky, Harvard, Dorothy and Janet left Tuesday to have Christmas dinner with his sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Heider and family in Ashland, Mass. Also present at the dinner was his mother, Mrs. A. W. Vine and sisters, the Misses Dorothy and Mabel Vine of Stamford, Conn. and another sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Avery of Darien, Conn.

This is the first time the entire Vine family have been together in several years.

## Park Theatre

Southwest Harbor, Me.

One show only 7:30

Fri. - Sat. Dec. 28 - 29

### KID GALAHAD

Elvis Presley

school in Portland are Russell Bradford, Thomas Goodwin, James Sawyer and Kevin Walsh.

Midshipman John Wellington 2/c of Maine Maritime Academy arrived Friday to spend Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Wellington.

Husson College students home for the holidays are Anita Lewis, Foyce Mitchell, Sandra Norwood, Larry Reynolds, Donna Wentworth, Heler Reed and Stanley Gott.

Mr. and Mrs. George Emmott have returned home after a vacation trip. They visited their son and his family, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Emmott in Vienna, Virginia. They also visited her brother and his family, Roy, and Mrs. Anthony Cunio, in Carlisle, Penn. and went to Rochester, N. Y. where they visited their daughter and family, Mr. and Ralph Beaudry. They were overnight guests of Mr. Emmott's brother and family, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Emmott, at Boston.

Harvard Vine of Wentworth Institute of Boston is home with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Vine, for the holidays.

Edward Smith of Maine Vocational school of South Portland, arrived home to spend the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Smith.

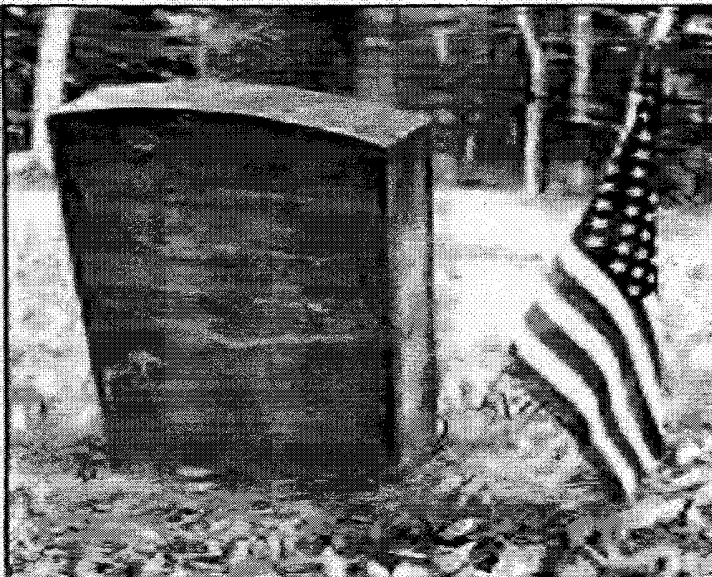
Charles Johnston of Tabor Academy, Marion, Mass. is with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Johnston. His brother, John of Bowdoin college is home also for the vacation.

We have Phil Whitney, our vice-president, to thank for this series of articles from past issues of The Bar Harbor Times.



On May 24, 1990 The Bar Harbor Times published an article about John Brown (1741-1831) of Manset, whose gravestone rests in the cemetery behind the Manset Union Church. No ordinary mariner, Brown's claim to fame was that he fought with John Paul Jones in a famous Revolutionary War naval battle against the British in 1799. Previous to this battle, Brown had been a prisoner of the British. He was included in a trade of prisoners and ended up in the the crew of John Paul Jones.

After the Revolutionary War some time between 1787 and 1793, Brown moved to Manset with his family and spent the rest of his life there as a fisherman. At the time of his move there were only 13 houses where he built his home and only bridle paths to travel on. Most of his time was spent on the sea on trips to Labrador and other far-flung ports. He was remembered as a generous, taciturn man, and a brave seaman. "In stature short and thickset, with crisp black hair and keen, piercing black eyes, a stern, set countenance which in later years made him the terror of the small boys of Manset, and a nature totally unacquainted with fear..." When he died the homestead passed to his descendants and was eventually torn down. No building marks the site.



The gravestone was first discovered in 1905 by residents decorating for Memorial Day. The Bangor Daily Commercial newspaper wrote an article about it. Interest was revived again in 1990 when the 1905 newspaper article was found and sent to a Manset resident, who then sent it to The Bar Harbor Times. As Memorial Day flags were once again placed at veterans' gravesites, the significance of a local man's contribution to the history of our country was remembered.

**John Brown's gravestone in Manset**  
POLLY SALTONSTALL



A photo taken around 1912 (SWHPL #5588) shows what looks like a fountain in the road near the intersection of Main Street and Clark Point Road. It is in fact a horse trough. When automobiles became popular and horses not so much, the trough was moved. First it went down Clark Point Road to the current bus stop near the post office. Then it was crossed over to Ewell Trundy's store, where Sips restaurant now stands. When Mr. Trundy closed his store in 1970, the trough was taken out of service. Eventually it came to rest at the Higgins antiques store on Main Street where Gordon "Bunny" Roberts bought it. In October of 2012 he brought it to the attention of the Southwest Harbor Historical Society. The historical society would like to see it installed on the lawn in front of Harbor House, possibly with water circulating through it. The Harbor House board has agreed to the idea, and the Southwest Harbor board of selectmen has endorsed the plan. The details need to be worked out.

### 2014 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Although the complete schedule for the 2014 program series has yet to be finalized, we have set the dates and speakers for May, June, and July:

- May 21    **Norma Spurling** of Bar Harbor  
100 years of men's and women's hats
- June 18    **Bob Quinn**, Storyteller of Eagle Island. A fifth-generation islander, Mr. Quinn recounts stories of small island life.
- July 16    **Joe Marshall** speaking on doctors of the area

Upcoming topics under discussion are Willis Ballard, well-known local photographer; Rich and Grindle boatbuilders; and 100 years ago in Southwest Harbor.

## ITEMS FOR SALE

**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 monthly presentations, at Carroll Drugs and at Sawyer's Specialties both in Southwest Harbor, and on our website: **SWHHS.org**.

Members \$11

Non-members \$12

## DVD'S

The DVD's are recordings of some of our summer programs. At this time we have sold out our supply of DVD's, we hope evidence of their popularity. We will be producing more—more copies and more choices of programs—in time for sale at our summer programs and elsewhere. Prices will be the same as for the Jesse Parker book listed above.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

You may have noticed that on our blue cover sheet our dues for 2014 have changed to a flat amount for anyone, individual or family. **When you pay your dues, you will receive by mail an acknowledgment letter and membership card.** Some of you have already paid for 2014 and should have received those two items. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, giving you the advantage of a tax deduction on your federal tax form.

## GIFTS TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Another way for you to support the historical society is to donate items of historical interest. We are interested in paper items, such as diaries, letters, scrapbooks, reports by individuals, businesses or groups, and genealogical papers; electronic and visual media, such as photographs, videos and tapes, computer files and printouts; and objects, such as tools, home and business artifacts, toys, etc. If you don't want to give up your old photographs, we can scan into our files a copy of the original and return the original to you.