

The Sou'West Voyage

TRADITIONS AND RECORDS

Norwood Cove

Southwest Harbor

Greening Island

Manset

Seawall

Feb. 2015

SOUTHWEST HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SWHHS.org

Published three times yearly: February, June, and November



These three unknown but obviously happy young men are sitting on the J. R. Stanley ice sluice in Manset. Stanley had ice ponds in several places, one being behind his house at 112 Seawall Road. The sluice would have been used to slide the ice blocks from the pond to the Stanley ice house at 95 Shore Road where he had a full-service wharf.

“The wharves and buildings belonging to the J. L. Stanley and Sons firm covered a large area of the waterfront and gave employment to many men. They conducted a wholesale and retail fish business, had a large cold storage plant and ice house and sold ice and water to the fishing vessels...Capt. Stanley...had a pond excavated near his home in a low-lying piece of land for an ice pond, built an ice house...and began to cater to the needs of the fishing craft that came to his small wharf.” *Traditions and Records of Southwest Harbor and Somesville, Mount Desert Island, Maine*, Mrs. Seth S. Thornton, 1938, p. 187.

If anyone can identify these youngsters, please let us know. (Karen Craig 244-5267; kc232sw@yahoo.com.)

2014 has been a busy year for the historical society. We presented 6 programs for the public, one each month from May to October. We started with Norma Spurling who presented her program on "100 Years of Men's and Women's Hats," followed in June by Bob Quinn from Eagle Island who talked about the island his family has called home for almost 200 years. Joe Marshall, a founding member of the historical society, presented a program on island doctors in July. This was followed by Laurie Schreiber in August talking to us about Rich and Grindle boat building. Rich Viera, one of our board members, with the help of Henryetta Ponczek, our society secretary, gave a program on life in Southwest Harbor 100 years ago. In October Charlotte Morrill and Meredith Hutchins presented a slide show and talked to us about the life and work of Bill Ballard. We are so fortunate to live in a community that has such a rich history and to have people who are happy to share that history.

In June we had our first off-site program when 27 folks took the ferry to Cranberry Isles for a day of exploring all the exciting happenings at the Great Cranberry Island Historical Society. Phil Whitney is the president of that society, and he did a fabulous job of entertaining us with tours of the island, checking out the archives, a slide show, hike, lunch, and a chance to browse the gift shop. Sue Newman, a society member, suggested this trip. Hopefully we will hear many more suggestions from the membership. As the saying goes, "A fun time was had by all."

We will meet again in March to begin coming up with program ideas. Please, if you have any suggestions, give me a call. We look forward to another fun year.

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

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

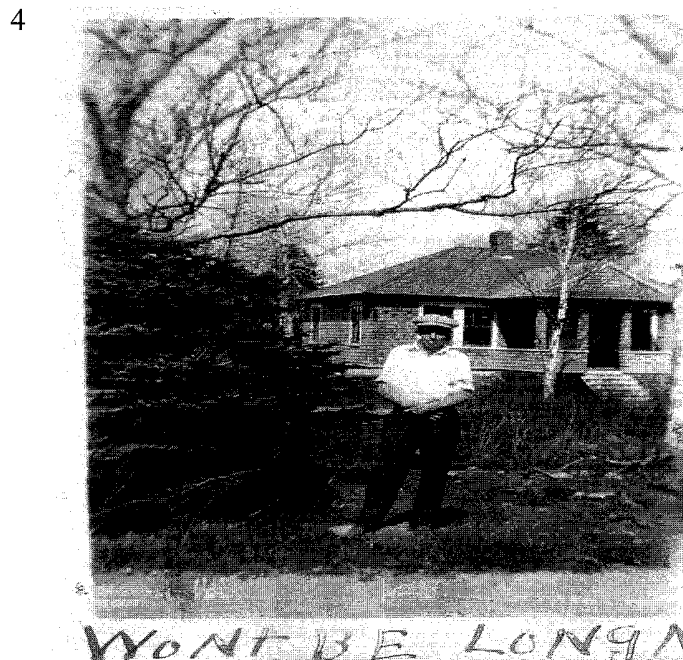
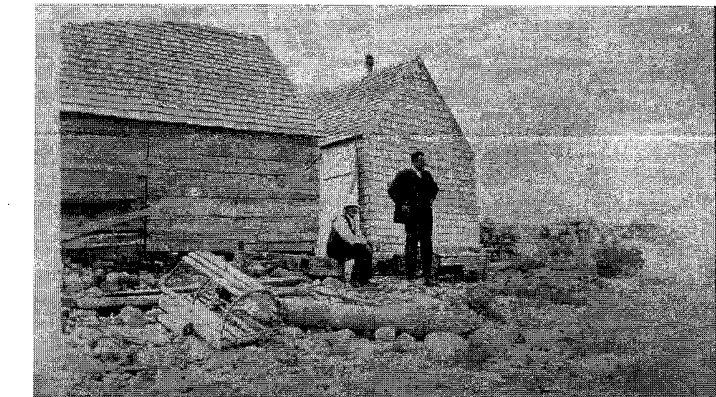
Jack Bennett	by Jason Bennett Young
Tom Eagan	by Pepper & Dave Cwik
Elise Felton	by Louise C. Riemer
Edwin A. Reed	by Beth G. Reed
Elmer L. "Buzzie" & Prue Benson Beal	by Ken & Helen Beal
Cynthia Carroll Aikman	by Grace Bernice Klausky
Donald C. Esty	by Robert Esty
Frances "Betty" Bachman	by David Benson
Family Loved Ones	by Gene & Peggy Walls
Jerry Craig	by Steven Herrick

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

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Phil A. Whitney	Mark C. Worcester	Warren & Dottie Worcester	Mary Wozniak

WHO AM I?

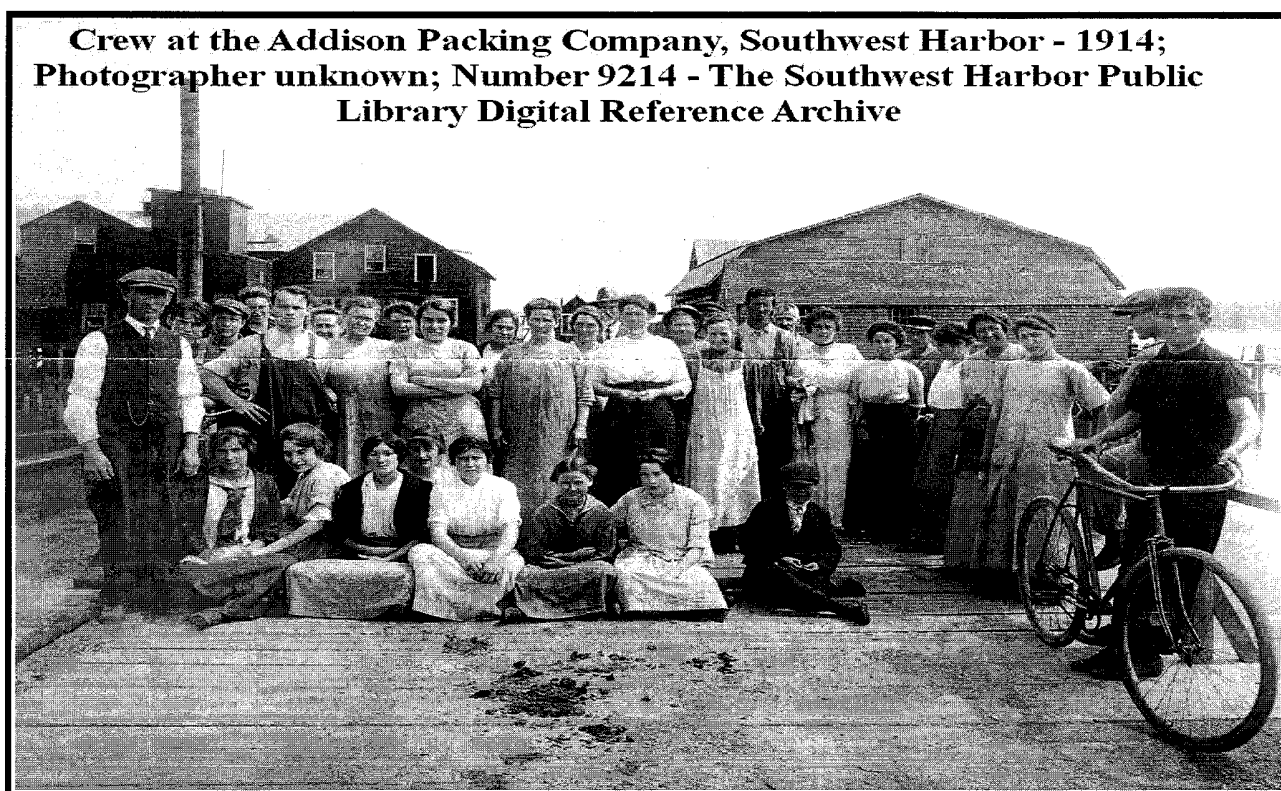
The historical society has an extensive collection of old photographs. Unfortunately, identifying information hasn't always accompanied the pictures. So we are asking that you look at the photos below and help us identify them. If you know anything about these photos, contact our archivists John and Becky Burnham at burnham@mindspring.com or our president Karen Craig at 244-5267 or kc232sw@yahoo.com, using the numbers beside each picture to specify your information.



During our research for one of our summer programs, we came across this photograph and an accompanying memoir of one of the women who worked at the Addison Packing Company. Credit should be given to Charlotte Morrill, Meredith Hutchins, and those who work to research the many photos at the library for making our job so easy. Following are excerpts from that memoir written by Carol Reed Walsh about her grandmother Mary Louise Mitchell.

“My grandmother lived for the factory whistle! In 1914 when the family of Nathaniel Mitchell moved from Addison to the new town of Southwest Harbor my mother, Minerva was 8 yrs. old and went to school where I work today at Harbor House. Mary Louise Mitchell, her mother, was the niece of Tall Barney Beal.

“Mae Mitchell, as everyone who knew her well, called her, was a strong, business-like woman who worked all day every day, and stood for no nonsense! She always wore earrings, beads of some



sort and painted her nails dark red to match the lipstick she always wore.

“All her life, from a young girl, my grandmother packed fish. She worked...in the Addison Packing Company here in town. Factory Hill is now called Apple Way, and the factory has been torn down and the Marina has taken its place. But once, this spot was the source for at least half the income of families in town...Southwest Harbor—in fact, the majority of the Island—was a different place. A 40 or 35-hour week was unheard of, and the only day they took off was Sunday, and when the fish were in, even Sunday was a work day... Anyway, my grandmother loved it and was one of, if not THE fastest packer at the factory...She packed sardines until well after her 80th birthday.

“I hated the smell of the factory, and when the whistles blew, I knew it would only be a matter of time before the busses would bring packers from other parts of the island, and locals would grab a ride, or run down the hill to start the process. People would come every summer to work in the various

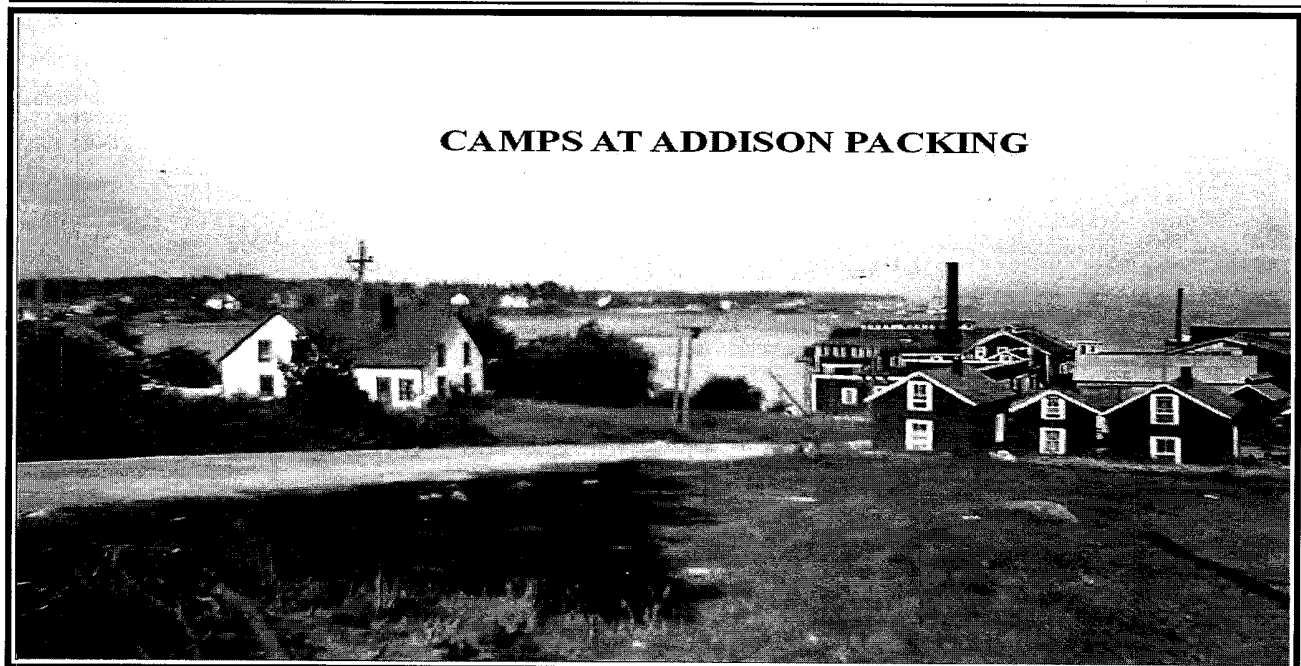
(Cont'd on Page 5)

jobs in the factory and often lived in the factory camps along the shore.... Addison Packing Company was where the money was. My grandmother's sisters would move up to Southwest from Cherryfield, or Harrington for a summer, live in the camps, and work all summer packing fish.

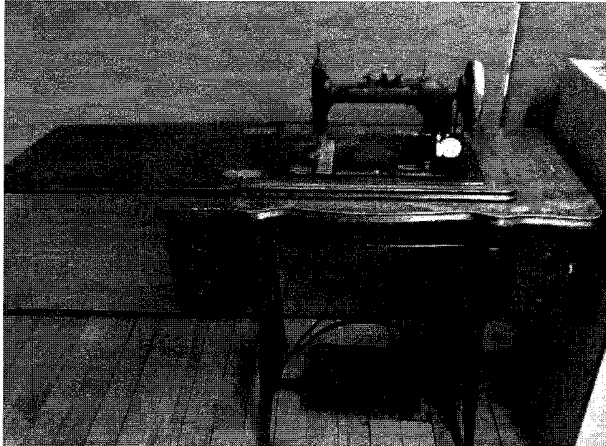
"There were a series of whistle signals that announced to the area whether the boats were coming in, or the packers were needed, or the canners—each group had a signal and everyone knew their whistle sequence. Frustration for my grandmother was hearing the whistle call at the Underwood plant in McKinley (now Bass Harbor) but no call from our factory.

"Everyone supplied their own equipment. Women packers wore rubber aprons, special hairnets with a white turned back visor, and all made their finger cotts—a process I found fascinating. Cotts were made with cheesecloth and adhesive tape. My grandmother would cut the cheesecloth into finger shapes, sew them together, and they were wrapped in adhesive tape when worn. This was the only protection for sharp scissors, snipping faster than the eye could see—taking off head and tail of the small fish and stuffing them in cans. Twenty-four cans to a tray, and I think something like 8 trays to a case...80 cents a case was good money!..Imagine how many cans of fish it took to make a case, and how fast the work had to be to make enough money to live on. But they loved it! Fish packers were a society unto themselves.

"The worst part of the factory being in business wasn't the smell from the work down the hill—the worst part was when my mother would decide it was time for us to make a visit to the factory while Grammie was working. I would hate going into the factory—the smell was a lot worse on the dock and in the packing room than it was from my front yard! And, those heads and tails had to go somewhere—usually the floor. I'd try to hold my breath as much as possible, or just breath lightly—and, of course, my mother had to stop and talk to everyone, and they all had to hash over the latest news—so it seemed like we were standing around there forever. My grandmother didn't have time to talk—she was too busy enjoying being the fastest packer in the place. Even though I didn't think she was watching, when we would get down the line of benches to her bench, she always would glare at me and say 'What's the matter with you today?' Of course, I'd say I didn't like the smell. That's when she would utter her famous line—head held high, earrings, beads and lipstick flawless—hands still working in a blur--'Smells like money to me!' That said it all, really! Different times, different priorities. She was a proud, independent woman, who did, as she would say, 'an honest day's work'."



New Home Sewing Machine, Circa 1883-1885, Made in Orange, Massachusetts



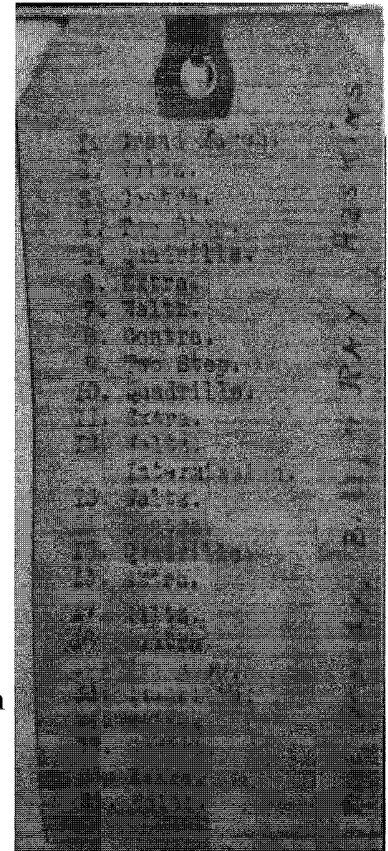
Although quite a variety of manufacturing was carried on in Orange, Massachusetts in 1882, the most important industry was the New Home Sewing Machine Works, the history of which dates back to 1860. An account of the town from 1882 stated, "The town is beautifully situated among the hills of Franklin Co., Mass., on the Vermont and Massachusetts Rail Road, about ten miles from the Connecticut River. It is a thrifty and prosperous village of about 4,000 inhabitants, lying on both sides of Miller's River. In 1879 a large fire swept away the buildings in which the cabinet work was made, but they have been replaced by larger and better ones.

The Company have in the past year more than doubled their manufacturing capacity and are now turning out over 350 machines per day, giving employment to 600 men."

The sewing machine has been donated by Marjorie Monteleon and is on display in the chamber of commerce room at Harbor House.

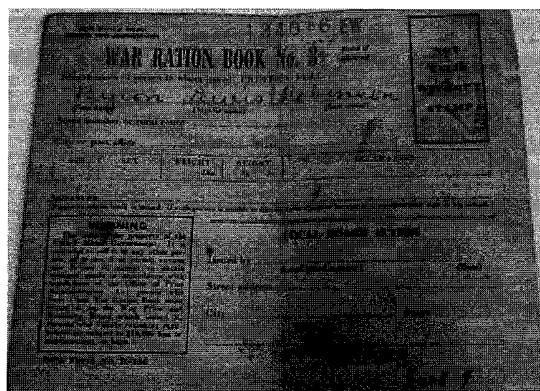
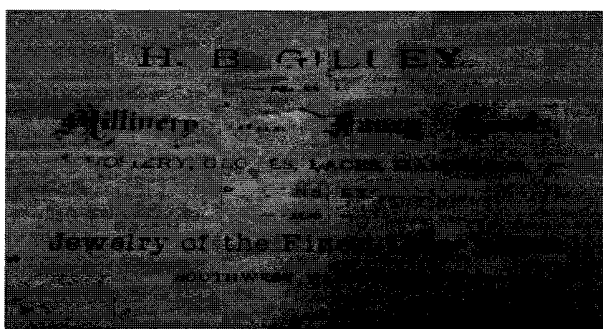


Dance Card on a tag for Stanley Fisheries for the 1949 Second Annual Fishermen's Ball. Entry ticket and dance schedule from Steve Herrick in memory of his parents, Woodrow and Phyllis Herrick. 5 1/2" x 4".



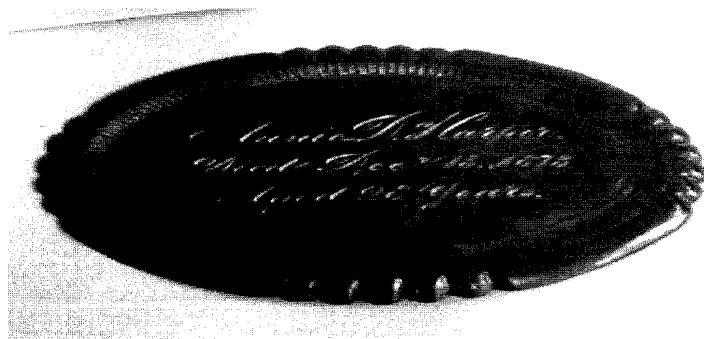
We regularly receive items donated to the society and feel it a shame that so few people are aware of what we have. We would also like to give recognition to those people who have donated the items. Therefore, although we won't go back to the beginning of the society in 2005, here is a list of those contributions since our last newsletter. This will be a regular feature of the newsletter.

1. Southwest Harbor/Tremont Visitor's Guides, 1980>. From Bruce Carlson.
2. Business card of H. B. Gilley Millinery and Fancy Goods shop. Hannah Gilley had a store in the ell which was attached to Warren and Dottie Worcester's house. The ell has since been replaced. From Warren and Dottie Worcester.



3. Two WWII ration books issued to Elsie Robinson and Byron Robinson. From Warren and Dottie Worcester.
4. Business sign: "John Carroll & Sons, Lehigh Cement" from their masonry business. Brought in by Jack Gilley and mounted on the wall outside the chamber of commerce room.

5. Pewter coffin plate of "Annie D. Harper, Died Dec. 13, 1873, Aged 28 Years". 4" x 6" oval. Brought in by Ruth Davis.



6. "Schoolboy Basketball Highlights: Southwest Harbor High School and Pemetic High School." From Eleanor Gilley Herrick.
7. Torrey family geneology, three-ring binder. Brought in by Karen Craig.
8. Two pieces of memorabilia from the 1949 Second Annual Fishermen's Ball—entry ticket and dance schedule. From Steve Herrick in memory of his parents Woodrow and Phyllis. See P. 6.
9. Copy of "Diary of Byron L. Robinson, WWI." From Dottie and Warren Worcester.
10. New Home Treadle Sewing Machine, ca. 1883. From Marjorie Monteleon. See Page 6.
11. Four postcards: 2 of the Manset Ocean House and 2 of views from the Manset short. From Jack Gilley.
12. A child's wood sled. From Marjorie Monteleon.
13. A photograph of postmaster Warren Worcester at work. From Warren Worcester.

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 Sawyer's Market and at Carroll Drugs, 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. We now have five 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

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. The DVD's are also for sale at our monthly presentations.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

There is still time to send in your dues for the 2015 membership year. We are no longer using stars on mailing labels to indicate paid dues. If you have already paid your dues for 2015, you will have received a letter and a blue membership card. Also there is an expiration date listed directly above your name on the blue address page. In our November, 2015, newsletter we will also publish a list of those who have paid their dues.

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.**

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