

The Sou'West Voyage

TRADITIONS AND RECORDS

Norwood Cove

Manset

Southwest Harbor

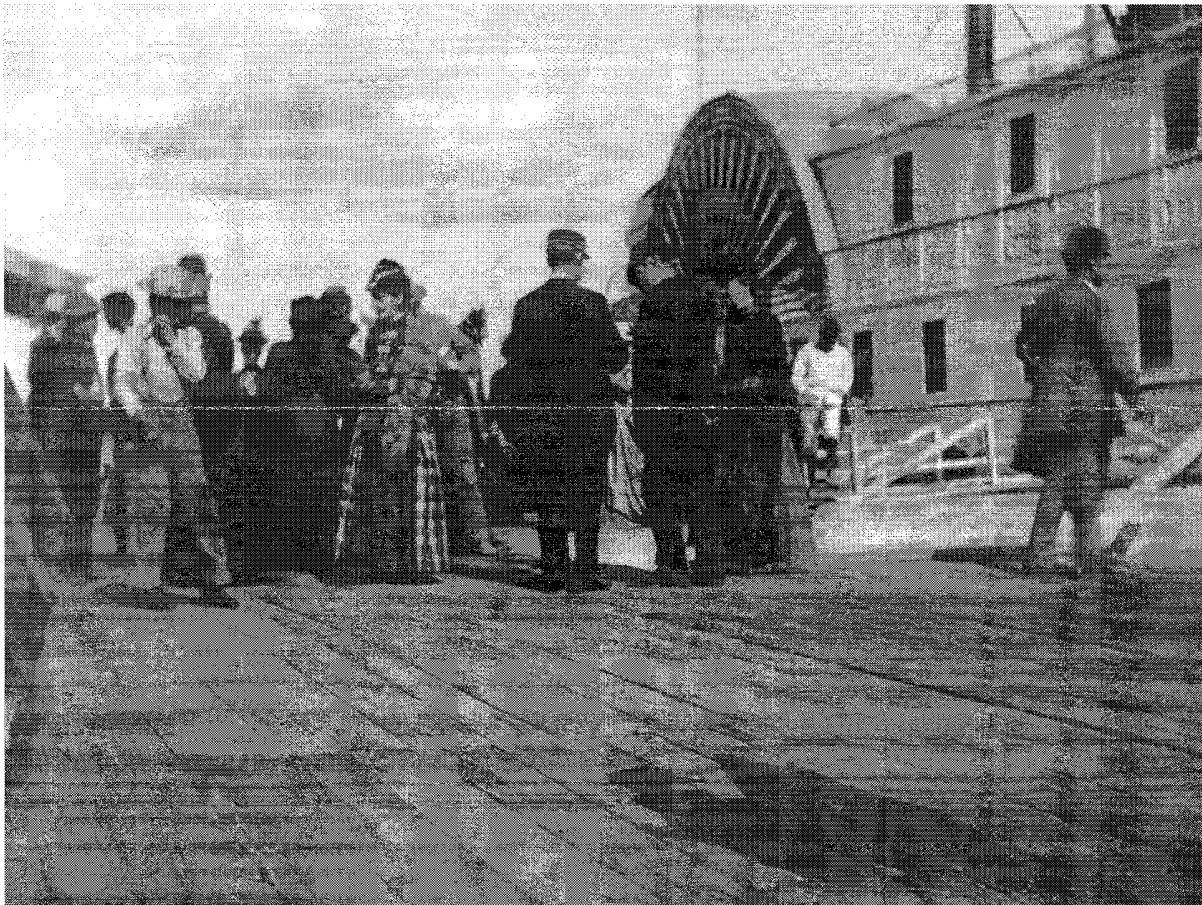
Seawall

Greening Island

June 2013

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

SWHHS.org



In this picture, taken in September 1890, summer visitors to Southwest Harbor wait at the Clark Point wharf to board the steamer Mount Desert. Southwest Harbor's summer colony began in the late 1800's, but slowly, because the fish industry was going strong and the canning factory was located near the boat landing. As B. F. DeCosta put it in 1871, "On landing, an ancient, fish-like smell is found to pervade the air around the dock in the vicinity of the lobster-boiling establishment, while the general aspect of the place is hardly inviting. RAMBLES IN MOUNT DESERT WITH SKETCHES OF TRAVEL ON THE NEW ENGLAND COAST, p. 45.

As I put together my second President's Report I am very encouraged with what we continue to accomplish in our organization.

The upcoming 'summer of programs' promises to be a very interesting one, and we would like to encourage everyone to join us at them. Programs are held the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM, and they are held on the second floor of the Harbor House building on Main Street. There is an elevator available for those of us that need a little help getting to the second floor. At each unique and informative program we provide free refreshments, and we also have our items for sale. Our first program this summer is on May 15th and it will be "War Memories" with our very own Warren Worcester. Everyone knows that Warren can tell a story, so it is sure to be an interesting time.

Our newest publication, The Homes and Businesses of Seawall and Manset, Part I will be on sale this summer. Part I will focus on the Seawall Road, from Manset corner to Ship Harbor.

I would also like to take this time to thank Spencer Ervin for all the help he has been to us over the past few years. He has been indispensable to our organization.

We appreciate the support we continue to receive from our members and friends. We hope to continue to offer you more history of our town as the year progresses.

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, 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**.



On December 25, 2012, Edna Jellison of Manset died at the age of 100. Mrs. Jellison had been the holder of the Boston Post Cane. Her death set in motion the search for a new recipient of the cane.

The first canes were presented to 700 New England towns in August, 1909. The Boston Post newspaper used the canes and resulting publicity to raise readership. In 1909 only men were considered for the

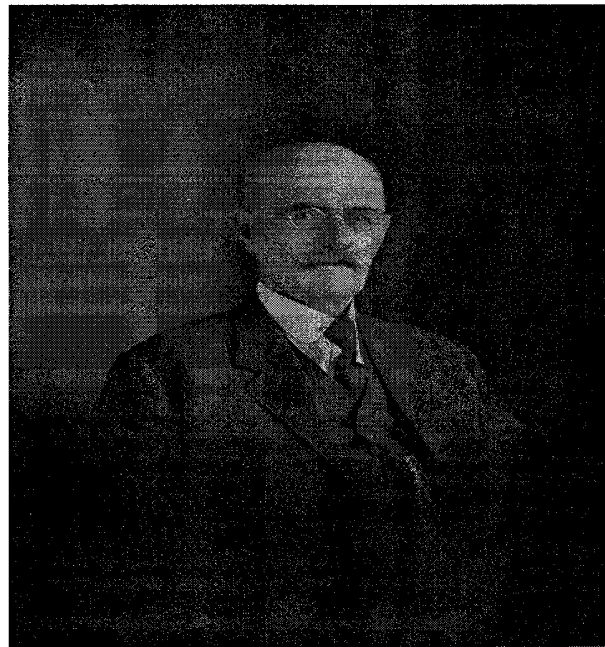
honor. Even though women received the vote in 1919, it took until 1929 for the newspaper's owner to declare that women could also receive the cane.

The canes were made of Congo ebony wood with a 12-carat-gold top inscribed to the oldest citizen of each town. In the last 103 years many canes have been lost. Therefore, towns are retiring the original and presenting a replica. In Southwest Harbor the original is in a display case at the town office, along with the names of past and current recipients. Jacob Schoppe Mayo was our first recipient. He was born in 1819 and died in 1912 at the age of 92.

The latest recipient, Raymond Morris of Southwest Harbor, born in 1915 was awarded the cane on Monday, February 4, 2013 at Harbor Hill Estates in Bar Harbor. Southwest Harbor town manager Don LaGrange and Tom Benson, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, represented the town. Warren Worcester and Jack Gilley represented the Southwest Harbor Historical Society. Several of Mr. Morris's relatives and friends were also in attendance at the party organized at Harbor Hill.

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

Don Esty by Robert and Karen Esty
Walter "Pa" Hamblen by Bernice Klausky
Edna Jellison by George M. Jellison, Sr.
John Madeira by Alexander Harrison
Fred Pinkham by Diana Pinkham
Enoch Stanley by Nancy C. Wilder



Since the Stanley fish wharf is the topic of our June presentation, it seemed appropriate to provide some background information on the man himself .

John Lenzey Stanley (1841-1919) was a descendant of John Stanley (1735-1783) and Sans Stanley II (1729-1791), two brothers born in Marblehead, Massachusetts, who moved to the Mount Desert Island area. The Stanley families of MDI descend from these two brothers. John Lenzey married Mary Elizabeth Whitmore in 1870 in Tremont.

J. L. Stanley was an industrious, enterprising man, as evidenced by the businesses he established in Manset. He owned a fish wharf, ice harvesting business, cold storage plant, and various small buildings on the shore. "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. Their wharf was also used as a steamboat landing by the Eastern Steamship Co. This large business was gradually built up by Capt. Stanley who retired from the sea, had a pond excavated near his home in a low-lying piece of land for an ice pond, built an ice house and dug a well at the shore and began to cater to the needs of the fishing craft that came to his small wharf, selling them ice and water and articles from his store." As was typical with him, Stanley was successful enough in the ice business that he enlarged the ice house and continued in the business all his life.

As his sons grew up and were able to help, Capt. Stanley enlarged his business until it was one of the largest along the coast. The enlargement of the business was aided by buying and sometimes selling nearby enterprises. For example, Centennial Hall, built in 1876, fell into disrepair when interest in it waned. Stanley bought and then sold it.

(cont'd on Page 6)



Pictured from left to right: Arthur Lawton, Millie Lawton, Fred Parker, and Jack Parker

In the days of Jesse Parker's childhood (1885-1894) children created their own fun. He describes a game called "Mubble Peg." Pegs were driven into the ground and pulled out by gripping them with the teeth. He doesn't explain how a winner was decided, or mention what this game did to one's teeth, or how one's parents viewed this game.

More familiar activities were hide and seek, shooting a BB gun, and baseball. "Hide and seek was very popular as the barns furnished many good places for hiding. The Pemetic, a three-story and basement hotel...made an ideal layout for hide and seek during the months when the hotel was closed.

"Rod Clark had a BB gun which used buckshot about one-quarter inch in diameter. From a distance of about ten feet bullets from these guns would make an indentation on the shingles and then drop to the ground. This made it possible when shooting at bullseyes to find the exact spot of the hit. At times the ground near the barn would be smoothed off and after a bullet dropped there would be a scramble for it. Whoever recovered it would have the privilege of firing the next shot. It was surprising how long the games would go on before a bullet was lost.

(cont'd on Pag 6)

John Hopkins built and owned a wharf next to the Stanley wharf, which became part of the Stanley plant. James Parker owned a wharf in Manset which was sold to the Stanley company. And, as if he weren't busy enough, Stanley bought a partially completed house and did much of the carpentry and masonry himself. He and Mary Elizabeth spent their married life of more than 60 years there (112 Seawall Rd.).

As so often happened to wooden buildings of old, fire struck the Manset shore area on December 2, 1918. The fire started in a general store next to the fish wharf. It was devastating to the owners along the waterfront, most notably J. L. Stanley and Sons. J. L. was 78 at the time. Although he had been planning on selling out, he stayed to rebuild, though on a smaller scale. In 1938 when Mrs. Seth Thornton wrote her book, **TRADITIONS AND RECORDS OF SOUTHWEST HARBOR AND SOMESVILLE, MOUNT DESERT ISLAND, MAINE**, she said that the Stanley Fish and Lobster Corporation was headed by C. W. Marion. Any quoted material, and much of the information herein, is attributed to her.

SUMMER, AT LAST! (cont'd)

“We played a game of baseball in which we used a homemade ball of yarn with no leather cover. The rules of the game allowed anyone on the side in the field to throw the ball at any runner. If he was hit while off base he was out.”

Other diversions were more creative. “In the springtime we made whistles from alder branches by pounding a piece of wood about three-quarters of an inch thick so that the bark could be removed without breaking it. A slot was then cut along the top of the wood and a cross opening made in the bark: a very good whistle resulted.

“We occasionally went up on the mountains at Valley Cove and Beech Cliff. All loose boulders were sent crashing down through the woods. At Beech Cliff we made many unsuccessful efforts to throw a stone into the water at Echo Lake. This looks easy but the cliff is not as perpendicular as it seems. I know of no one who accomplished this feat.”

Jesse lived on Clark Point Road and reminisces about these days when he was a young child in **RECOLLECTIONS OF SOUTHWEST HARBOR, MAINE, 1885-1894**, edited by John P. and Rebecca D. Burnham. All 52 pages of Jesse Parker's story are available for purchase. See Page 8 for details.

Thursday, June 28, 1956 "Dial Replaces Familiar 'Number Please' on MDI Sunday Morning"



Southwest Harbor operators took time from a very busy switchboard to pose for the picture above. They are (standing at left) Mrs. Clifford Willey, chief operator with 19 years service; (at board) Mrs. Ted Hancock, 30 years; Mrs. John Hopkins, 37 years and the dean of active Mt. Desert Island operators; Mrs. Howard Gilley, 11 years; Mrs. Earl Moser, five years; Mrs. Warren Rice, nine years. In the front row (l to r) Mrs. Burnham Stanley, three years; Mrs. Donald Berry, five years; Mrs. Harold Dolliver, five years; Mrs. Myrtle Dam, 13 years; Miss Yvonne Gallant. Mrs. Willey will transfer to the Ellsworth office, and Mrs. Moser has been assigned to the office in Easton, Penna. Mrs. Hancock and Mrs. Hopkins will accept retirement.

New System Means Loss of Personal Sound of Operator's Voice and Service, But Will Eliminate Charge Between Island Exchanges.

New names "Atlantic", "Chestnut" and "Browning" on the new dial phones will replace the familiar and faithful operators Sunday, July 1 at one minute past twelve in the morning. This new system seems remarkable perhaps to the citizens of Mt. Desert who are so accustomed to the "ring and ask" style but it is only a small section of a large nation-wide direct distance dialing plan which will eventually enable one to dial directly any telephone in the country. Thus, these names designate the area on the island.

The local telephone book lists only two exchanges which are without dial, Aurora and Swan's Island. The others connect directly to all exchanges through the Ellsworth toll center. The Mount Desert Island exchanges allow one to dial anywhere on the island without toll.

The New England Telephone and Telegraph Company has made arrangements to install the new telephones since before Sept., 1955 with the idea of giving this area the best possible service. The operators will still continue to serve the communities with all types of calls, except, of course, local ones. For example, in case of emergency, the operator, who has a complete list of emergency numbers for doctors and hospitals, police and fire departments, and other key officials can connect anyone with them rapidly.

But who will not miss the efficient "Number, please" of the operators. They contributed a friendly air to the business of telephoning.

Provided by Phil Whitney

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.

- June 19: Stanley Fish Wharf**
July 17: Seawall, Wonderland, Ship Harbor areas, Speaker Dave Benson
August 21: Ralph Stanley Remembers
September 18: US Coast Guard in Southwest Harbor
October 16: The Granite Industry, Speaker Steve Haynes

Notice that the October program has been changed from Willis Ballard. You may contact us concerning these programs, or any issue, by email: swhistory@yahoo.com, or write to P.O. Box 272, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679. We also have a website : **SWHHS.org**.

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 the Southwest Harbor Library and at Carroll Drugs 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. 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. The DVD's are also for sale at our monthly presentations.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

There is still time to send in your dues for the 2013 membership year. If you have already done so, you will have received a membership card. We will no longer affix a star to your address label.

CORRECTION TO OUR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

A photo of students sitting in front of their school was misidentified as being the Manset school. It was in fact the Southwest Harbor school, the Harbor House of today.