

The Sou'west Voyage

Norwood Cove

Greening Island

Southwest Harbor

Manset

Seawall

Published three times yearly: February, June, and November

JUNE 2018



APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

On the road from Southwest Harbor to Somesville there is a sign in the vicinity of Echo Lake, “AMC.” It is at the head of a road leading into the trees, the entrance of the Appalachian Mountain Club. In her book, *Traditions and Records: Southwest Harbor and Somesville*, Nell Thornton writes, “The Appalachian Mountain camp was established 1922, and the Mount Desert Island camp was built in 1934 for the use of the inhabitants of Mount Desert Island as a social meeting place.” (p. 126) But it was much more than that. The AMC is a non-profit organization headquartered in Boston and established in 1876. Its aim was, and continues to be, conservation of mountainous areas. Its most well-known project is the Appalachian Mountain Trail. The Echo Lake camp comprises 13 acres which were initially leased from the Park but in 1934 were deeded to AMC.

According to Irving Meredith, president of AMC in 1942 and 1943, the idea for a camp on Echo Lake arose back in 1895 when a group of Appalachians visited MDI, saw Echo Lake from atop Beech Mountain, and thought it would be a perfect site for a camp. Inexplicably it took 27 years for the idea to be realized. Since the property was part of Lafayette National Park (later to be renamed Acadia National Park), permission had to be granted by Superintendent George Dorr for use by the AMC.



In Meredith's 1947 chronicle of the first 25 years of the camp, he wrote that for the first five years campers came during August only. “The first year was a rough affair. Through the efforts of the Park officials a

(Cont'd on Page 3)

Lots of wonderful things are going on at the historical society.

The first meeting in June we will be deciding on summer programs. One of the programs will definitely be on the work that the new cemetery committee is doing. We are very proud of the fact that this committee originated at the historical society. Please watch for our announcement sign in front of the bank for program information. We hope to see you at the programs, and you are very welcome to attend the monthly board meetings at Harbor House the first Tuesday of the month at 1 PM. Our annual board meeting is scheduled for September 19 at 7 PM at Harbor House and is open to the public. We are looking forward to a fun and busy 2018.

We have hired George Soules to lead us in getting all of our artifacts digitized. John Burnham, Lynne Birlem, Patty Pinkham and her daughter Emma are working with George. We have also signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" with History Trust, a "governing body that will define the mission, vision, goals, and procedures...to increase capacity, focus content, improve conditions and enhance access" for the many organizations who have joined.

We have noticed that we are the only historical society around that does not have a home of its own. Thoughts?

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

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

Edna Jellison & George Jellison, Sr. by Aimee Williams
Edna Jellison & George Jellison, Sr. by Brenda & Bruce Albers
William Ross Marshall by Maurice J. Marshall
Fannie & Harry Bennett by Jacqueline Young
Lena Clark Eagan by Ann Eagan

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

Richard & Joanne Fuerst	David & Janice Reed
Jack Gilley	Charles Stanhope
Anne Hopper	Janet Strong & Robert Hoyt
Sue Newman	

Officers: Karen Craig, Pres.; Phil Whitney, V.P.; Lynne Birlem, Treas.; Henryetta Ponczek, Secy.; Board Members: John Burnham, Bob Davis, Jack Gilley, Wayne Gilley, Bernie Mauger, Al Michaud, Donna Michaud, Patty Pinkham, Ralph Stanley, Rich Viera, Kathe Walton, Aimee Williams.

Our acquisitions, displays, and general information about the historical society are located in the Southwest Harbor/Tremont 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**



wood road was constructed into the camp, the site cleared, and a cabin erected to serve first as a kitchen and later as an office. The tents were set up wherever a cleared spot could be found and the dining tent kept off the sun but let the wind and rain through. By the second year, tent floors, 25 new tents equipped with spring cots, and a permanent building for dining added much to the comfort of camp.



By the time of Meredith's report in 1947, several buildings had been added for the convenience of campers. These buildings consisted of a large central dining room and kitchen with fieldstone fireplace, glassed-in porch, and open veranda overlooking the lake and diving float; along the lake shore two buildings about the same size, one, a library, nicknamed "The Speakeasy," the other a building for games; the Powder House, long and narrow with a door in each end and a partition in the middle where good clothes, "masculine and feminine," could be hung away from the dampness of the tents; another divided building for bathing; and various buildings for staff.

So what did people do for the two weeks that they were here? The camp season consisted of two-week periods during July and August. In 1953 Carl O. Chauncey was a section leader for the two weeks and kept a diary of the activities that he was responsible for arranging. A partial list of what went on is a trip to Baker Island, bowling at the YMCA in Bar Harbor, bridge and cribbage tournaments, square dancing, hiking around the island, a walking trip to Hall Quarry, a group sing around a campfire, a trip to Jordan Pond House, and camp picture night with slides and "kodachromes."

If you were to visit the Echo Lake Camp web site, you would find that much of what was happening in 1947 and 1953 is still going on today. "Echo Lake's facilities consist of platform tents with canvas sides equipped with cots, blankets, mattresses and pillows, a full-service dining hall providing three meals a day, a

(Cont'd on Page 4)

recreation hall and a library with comfortable chairs for those seeking quiet time to read or enjoy the fire. Flush toilets and running hot and cold water are located in two areas of the camp. Hot shower and a bath are available at the bathhouse in the center of camp, which is handicapped accessible. In addition the camp has a volleyball court, basketball net, swimming floats and boating dock with canoes, kayaks, rowboats, three sunfish and a windsurfer for communal use. The large deck outside the dining hall offers spectacular views of the lake and the cliffs.” Many of the outings to the MDI area are still the same, as are the evening programs at camp. Perhaps the most obvious change (a sign of the changed pace of life?) is that camp visits are now for one week at a time. You do not need to be a member of AMC to attend.

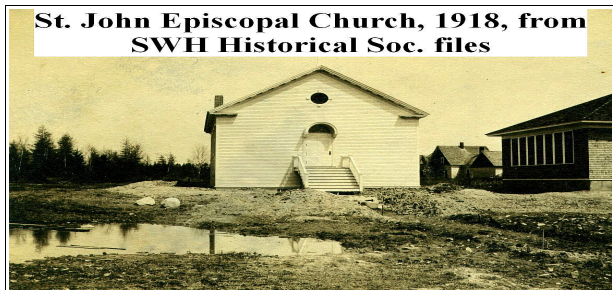


We leave you with a picture of the way life should be.

Unless otherwise noted, the information herein is from “Twenty-five Years of Echo Lake Camp,” by Irving Meredith, *Appalachia Journal*, June 1947, pp. 320-325; and “Echo Camp Lake, 1953:

The Diary of a Section Leader,” by Carl O. Chauncey, *Appalachia Journal*, December 1953, pp. 470-487. Both articles and an article by LaRue Spiker written in 1959 are in the files of the Southwest Harbor Historical Society for more detailed information. Photos are from the Appalachian Mtn. Club website.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTHWEST HARBOR



2018 marks the centennial of St. John's Episcopal Church in Southwest Harbor. It was originally called St. John-the-Divine and was established to meet the needs of a far-flung summer colony and reach out to local people. The effort to meet those needs was begun by the clergy of St. Saviour's in Bar Harbor as part of their chapel system. In many ways St. Saviour was the “Mother Church” for almost all Episcopal churches in Hancock county.

As the churches within the Episcopal system became more numerous, the clergy at St. Saviour's couldn't handle such a widespread territory. One church of the chapel system was St. Andrew's-by-the-Lake, Seal Cove, erected in 1914. Its first service was held on January 2, 1915. Reverend Robert Codman, third Bishop of Maine, assigned Rev. William T. Forsythe as vicar for both Seal Cove and Southwest Harbor. By 1918 St. John-the-Divine, built by Robie Norwood, was added to his area; ironically, Forsythe's funeral was the first service at the church. He had served only five years as vicar to both parishes. Rev. Forsythe was succeeded by Mr. Carson.* “A few women organized as a Guild and by means of sales etc. have managed to defray most of the cost of building the church. Since then they have added a chancel, parish room and vestry at a cost of \$2000.”** In 1981 St. John's and St. Andrews were merged and the Seal Cove building closed during the winter months.

*Most information is from “The Episcopal Church Comes to Mount Desert Island” by The Rev. Edwin Atlee Garrett, III, in *The History Journal of the Mount Desert Island Historical Society*, Vol. 3, 200, pp.20-31.

***Traditions and Records of Southwest Harbor and Somesville, Mount Desert Island, Maine*, Mrs. Seth S. Thornton, 1938, pp. 72-73.

This is the fourth in a series of sites within Southwest Harbor that are listed on the U. S. National Register of Historic Places.



The map at left shows the site of the first attempt at a permanent settlement on Mount Desert Island in 1613 by the French, including several Jesuits within the landing party. It was they who named the area St. Sauveur. But long before the French landed here, finds at the site suggest that it was occupied as early 1,000 years ago. It is for this reason that the site has been deemed important enough to be considered an historic place.

It has been an archaeological site since 1977, now part of Acadia National Park. The principal feature of the site is a shell midden which has yielded historic artifacts and evidence of human occupation. Simply defined, a midden is a refuse heap. What is rare about this midden is that some graves were clearly placed in the midden.

Fernald Point marks the western side of The Narrows, a narrow point near the southernmost end of Somes Sound. The principal investigation of the site took place in 1977 under the auspices of Dr. David Sanger, an archaeologist from the University of Maine at Orono. The site was being eroded by a long-term rise in sea levels since the end of the last ice age, so a seawall was erected for protection. A detailed inventory and assessment of the human remains was made by National Park staff, specialists in prehistoric archeology and anthropology, and representatives of the Wabanaki Tribes of Maine (WTM).

Major finds at the site included elements of at least two house sites, one of which was already significantly eroded. Partial remains of at least seven individuals (five adults, one “sub-adult”, and one child) were found in a single grave. A bone harpoon head, modified beaver tooth, and several animal and fish bone fragments were associated with the individuals. Radiocarbon dating set their age at 1035-1155 AD. A second grave site of an elderly male was dated at 480-680 AD. The period of heaviest occupation was between 1 AD and 1300 AD. In addition to large quantities of shells (mostly soft-shell clams), the midden yielded evidence of human consumption of a wide variety of mammals, birds, and fish. Evidence of clay pottery is limited to fragmentary potsherds, although there were sufficient examples to trace changes in decoration and style.

All artifacts were sent to the University of Maine at Orono. No known individuals were identifiable, but a representative of the WTM identified the area as the historic gathering place for his people and stated his belief that there exists a relationship of shared group identity between these individuals and the WTM. The National Park Service agreed. In 1994 a notice was sent to officials of the WTM that repatriation of the remains and funerary objects would begin September 1994.

*It's summer and a county fair can't be far behind. In **Recollections of Southwest Harbor, Maine, 1885-1894**, pp. 46-47, Jesse L. Parker recounts what the Hancock County fair was like in those bygone days. Jessse lived in the William Parker house on Clark Point Road during those years.*

“The Hancock County Fair at Ellsworth was at its best from 1890 to 1900. As it took 3 1/2 hours each way for the trip we would start about 6 a.m. The main attraction at the fair for children was the group of booths where prizes were given for ringing canes, throwing baseballs at various objects, etc. The cane itself was the prize for throwing a ring which dropped over its top. If the cane had a large head which was difficult to ring a dollar bill might be tied to the cane as a prize to go with it. In order to acquire skill Ned Clark practiced with rings and canes set up in his barn. Most of the prizes for the other games were cigars which were of no value to us but we still got quite a kick out of winning.

“On one occasion I created quite a stir at a game arranged so that a bolt hit by a sledge hammer would cause a piece of metal to rise in a slot and sometimes ring a bell at the top. A husky quarry man had failed to ring the bell and when I rang it on the first try he was subjected an awful ribbing by his companions. Apparently the trick was not so much strength as good timing. The so called “African Dodger” was a man with black face and woolly cap who stuck his head through a hole in a canvas and dodg`ed baseballs thrown at him. One of these booths substituted ripe tomatoes for baseballs. When the tomatoes were thrown too high they would sometimes go over the top of the booth and hit people in other booths. We always felt that some of the wild throws were deliberate.

“Trotting races were a big attraction even without betting. One year people at Southwest Harbor were especially interested because a horse owned by Bert Eaton of Bass Harbor became a consistent winner. For several years prior to the races this horse had drawn a peddler's cart and was well known to everybody in our vicinity.



“The most spectacular attraction at the fair was the balloon ascension which took place late each afternoon. The empty balloon tied to stakes was placed over a big brick chimney and filled with hot air. When the pressure was sufficient the ropes were released and the balloon went off in whatever direction the wind might be blowing. It continued to rise until the hot air cooled and then it slowly settled to earth and was returned to the fairgrounds for the next day. A balloonist went up with the balloon and I am inclined to think he came down with it as it dropped very slowly. But it is possible that a parachute was used.

“As far as I can recollect there were no evening shows of fireworks. However, there were no restrictions on the sale and use of fireworks. Pinwheels, Roman candles, and sky rockets in the evening; small and giant firecrackers, torpedoes, and caps for pistols in the daytime were the usual collection. It was a big problem to decide how much of the small amount of spending money available should be applied to each item. The large firecrackers would be placed under tin cans which would be thrown high in the air when the crackers exploded. We suffered some small burns but never had a serious accident from the use of fireworks.”

THE SOUTHWEST HARBOR HISTORIC CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Since our report in the November 2017 newsletter, the committee hasn't been sitting idle. Although The Old Burying Ground on High Road is the first cemetery to be worked on, committee members have been visiting the other 10 burying grounds to assess what steps need to be taken at each. For example, preliminary clearing could be done, ownership must be established in some cases, and permission across private property access routes sometimes must be obtained. Another project connected to the cemeteries is identifying veterans buried therein. Up to now, flags have been placed on veterans' graves by Jack Gilley, using his own information. The committee wants to compile a formal list of veterans' gravesites. For guidance the committee has looked to Tremont's cemetery committee which cares for 12 cemeteries. Another source of guidance is the Maine Old Cemetery Association which will hold a preservation workshop in Ellsworth in July. At the May town meeting \$25,000 was budgeted for the committee's work, in addition to the original \$1,000. Further information about the committee can be accessed on the Southwest Harbor's town website.

From The Bar Harbor Times, March 24, 1960

SOUTHWEST HARBOR

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS

Mrs. Norman J. Walsh

Telephone CH 4-5497

Mrs. Norman J. Walsh was in Bangor Monday attending the funeral of Mrs. Patrick Cushing.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Chick and sons have moved from Main Street to an apartment over Smith's plumbing shop on the Clark Point road.

Mrs. Howard S. Crafts of Springfield college, Springfield, Mass. is having a vacation at her home. She has as her house guest Mrs. James Gouck.

Joseph Klausky, Charles Sawyer Jr. and Kenneth Billings are visiting in Miami Springs, Florida for a few weeks.

The Boy Scouts of Troop 99 met last week with new members. Following opening ceremonies, they continued on their plans for the Indian lore show in April. Some of the things made by the boys to date have been tomahawks, spears, tom-toms, also the practice of the Indian dances.

The scouts are also making plans for the golden jubilee exhibition being held in Ellsworth May 14. The scouts will march in parade and have a booth to display some phase of scouting. There will be competitive games of scoutcraft skills between her scout troops.

After the event in Ellsworth the boys will start looking forward to a week's camporama at the Boy Scout reservation July 18-24. Every scout who has now passed second class and has a complete uniform will be given leggings to wear with his uniform. This should add to the appearance of our boy outfits. Any older boys who have grown uniforms please notify us or leaders if they wish to donate or sell.

Boys present were Danny Mitchell, Maurice Rich, Elliott Bickard, Larry Mitchell, Richard Nor-

wood, Richard Noyes, Teddy Welton, Weldon Leonard, Neil Hamblen, Raymond Bunker, Brian Hupper, Paul Walsh, Charles Rich, Ronnie Ward, Gary Mitchell, Michael Crocker, Sammy Beal, Dwayne Sargent, Malcolm Pettegrow. Including the new members the enrollment is now up to 24 boys. All boys of the age of 11 or over are urged to join now and get in on the Indian craft. Meetings, Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. Congregational church vestry.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Robbins jr. (nee Nancy Stanley) announce the birth of their second son born March 17 in Rochester, N.Y.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Chester Stanley and paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Robbins sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Godfrey, James and Robert, of Bangor and Seaman Richard Godfrey of Norfolk, Va. were Thursday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Walsh.

Engaged

The engagement of Audrey June Wass to ensign John Richard Griffin, USN, of Sarasota, Florida, son of Mrs. A. L. Ridgeway of Chattanooga, Tenn., was announced this week by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Wass of Southwest Harbor.

Miss Wass attended Bates college and the Boston Dispensary School of Laboratory Technicians. Ensign Griffin was graduated in 1958 from Alabama Polytechnic Institute where he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, and is presently serving aboard the USS Davis.

An early May wedding is planned.

Congregational Church News

Wednesday 7:30 pm. Mid-week Lenten service, to be held at the Manset Union church. The guest preacher will be the Rev. Ronald A. Mosley of Bar Harbor.

Sunday, April 3, 7 am. Men's communion breakfast at the First Congregational church in Ellsworth. Mr. Paul Weimer and Rev. George Bovill will lead the service.

Rod Clark has tickets for the breakfast at 85c each.

There will be a meeting of the Southwest Harbor church immediately following the church service April 10.



AUDREY JUNE WASS

Items to be taken up will include tarring the parking lot, providing funds for the building campaign, and to see about acquiring additional land in back of the church.

The robes for the junior choir of the Manset Union church are very nearly finished and will be ready for the children to wear Sunday when they will be singing again.

The anthem will be "You May Have the Joybells".

And thanks to Mrs. Helen Harmon, Mrs. Ora Seavey, Mrs. Edna Jellison, Mrs. Rita Torrey, Mrs. Frances Hitchcock, Mrs. Elizabeth King, Mrs. Thelma Ward, Mrs. Eleanor Hancock, Mrs. Helen Parker and Mrs. Jessie Tate for their faithful work in making the robes.

The Gleaners met with Mrs. Marian Noyes March 17. Rev. William Mitchell showed the film-strip "Son of Ahmad" which is about the One Great Hour of Sharing.

uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Walsh.

The Friday club will meet at the home of the co-hostesses, the Misses Irene and Mary Cousins, with Mrs. Howard Staples as leader whose topic will be education.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fuller have returned home after a three months absence. They spent two months at Siesta Key off the coast of Sarasota, Florida. Christmas and a week in March were spent in the home of their son, Leroy, at McLean, Virginia. They also visited friends in Massachusetts and North Carolina and in Scarsdale, N. Y., their former home.

Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner Norton and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Lynch were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Walsh.

Mrs. Augustus Workman returned Friday after spending several weeks in Massachusetts.

Mrs. Fred Berry and Mrs. Donald Berry took Carney Lo Berry, Shiloh, Penn., and York,

Park Theatre

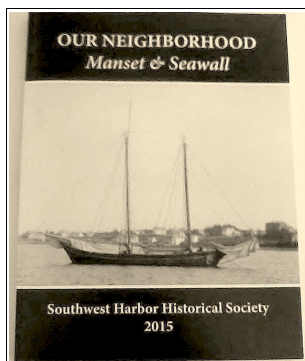
Southwest Harbor, Me.

One Show 7:30 p.m.

Sat. - Sun. March 26 - 27

THE FBI STORY

James Stewart - Vera Miles

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
The Steamboat Era of Southwest Harbor; Ralph Stanley & Phil Whitney, Speakers
Family Photos of an Earlier Southwest Harbor; Kathe Newman Walton, Speaker

Members \$11 Non-members \$12
Please add \$3 per item for shipping.

Orders for the books 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 2017 and 2018. **The date above your name on the 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.**

WEBSITE 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.

Isle de Mont Desert



The Davis Agency

Real Estate & Vacation Rentals

207.244.3891

363 Main Street
S.W. Harbor, Maine 04679

www.DavisAgencyRealty.com



Maine Vacation Rentals

MDI, Blue Hill Peninsula
and Points Downeast

207.244.3891 207.374.5300

363 Main St, SW Harbor - 75 Main Street Blue Hill
mainevacationrentalproperties.com



314 Main Street, Southwest Harbor
www.bhbt.com • 888-853-7100

Member FDIC

Equal Housing Lender



LSR Robinson Co.

Serving MDI since 1932.

Home • Auto • Marine • Business • Health • Life

339 Main St., Southwest Harbor | 244-7246

Jenn Gray

gray5127@roadrunner.com

Gott's Store

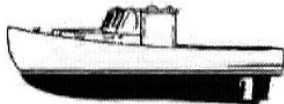
Grocery & Take Out

111 Bass Harbor Road (207) 244-3431
Southwest Harbor, ME 04679 (207) 244-9182 Fax

Newman Marine Brokerage

Jarvis Newman, Broker
Kathe N. Walton, Broker

245 Main Street
Southwest Harbor, Maine 04679
877 239 9148 toll free
207 266 5574
207 244 0480 fax
info@jarvisnewman.us
www.jarvisnewman.us



Sawyer's Market

USDA Certified Black Angus Beef
Carefully-selected fruits and vegetables.
Beer - Wine - Spirits

5:30 am - 6:00 pm winter
5:30 am - 8:00 pm summer

344 Main Street, Southwest Harbor (207)244-3315

SAWYER'S SPECIALTIES W.I.N.E C.H.E.E.S.E



353 Main St., PO Box 914, Southwest Harbor, ME 04674
(207) 244-3317

(207) 244-1233
QuiltFabric@gmail.com



Quilts, Fabric, Yarn, Needlepoint
Notions, And Gifts

Ruth Davis
Owner

11 Sealcove Rd.
Southwest Harbor Shoppes #5