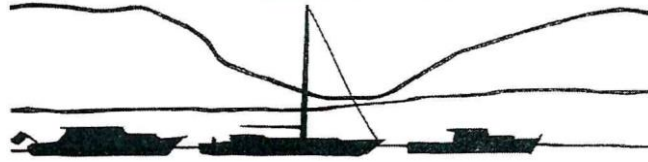


Southwest Harbor Historical Society



The Sou'west Voyage

Norwood Cove

Greening Island

Southwest Harbor

Manset

Seawall

Published three times yearly: February, June, and November

JUNE 2019



A recent photo of our new home, the former Manset Union Church. Note the beautiful violets and leaning steeple, just some of the work ahead!

Capital Campaign Celebratory Kickoff!

Our campaign to preserve the Manset Union Church and establish a home for the Southwest Harbor Historical Society will kick off with a celebratory event on Sunday, July 14, from 3 to 5 PM. Storyteller Dennis Damon will be our featured speaker, entertaining us with “Cutting the Spar,” a humorous, picturesque tale about a slice of life event on MDI.. We invite all to join us, for the entertainment, for information about our campaign, for refreshments, and for the good company! This will take place at our Historical Society home at 192 Seawall Road in Manset.

Our Capital Campaign goal is to raise \$400,000 to support our objectives:

- *purchase the Manset Union Church
- *renovate the building
- *preserve the collection
- *educate and engage our constituents

Of this goal, \$189,253. has been raised to date. The Church has been purchased (yay!). We held meetings in the building throughout the winter, but did shut off the heat in the church sanctuary, and turned it down to 50 in the Gleaners Hall. A bit chilly, but the building withstood the winter with no problems (well, some ice issues in the parking lot, but that was the case all over MDI!).

Our central entryway was finished and improved during the winter and spring. Doorways were moved, flooring laid, and trim installed. We look forward to welcoming visitors through this entrance.

We have been working to secure funds to repair our steeple. The Maine Community Foundation administers the Maine Steeples Fund. One first step in the process of applying for this grant is a site visit with staff of Maine Preservation. This group encourages restoration efforts that follow the best practices of historic preservation whenever feasible.

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Hello to all of this community of fans of Southwest Harbor history.

Steady progress has been made over the past months here at our Historical Society, leading to what promises to be a busy summer and fall season. Please visit us, attend a program, or check out our museum, opening soon!

I am looking forward to the programs that our Program & Events Committee has organized (listed elsewhere in this newsletter). They include a great variety of topics and speakers, and promise to be enjoyable and informative. We hope to see lots of you there. Remember, we do serve refreshments!

Our Annual Meeting, during which we do the necessary business of our organization, will be held before our September 18th program. I promise to keep that portion of the evening short.

Work on our Digital Archives is ongoing. Information about items in our collection continues to be added. We are working now to scan those items so that a digital image of the photograph, document, postcard, letter, etc. is available to all who access our website, www.swhhs.net. You may also visit our Digital Archives by scanning the QR code at the bottom of our rack card, available at the Southwest Harbor/Tremont Chamber of Commerce. This scanning work will continue throughout the summer, often on rainy days or evenings. If you would like to help, send an email to me at pattypinkham21@gmail.com.

It is with sadness that I report that we recently lost a longtime Board member. Wayne Gilley had been a member of this Historical Society for many years and worked to keep the former Manset Union Church in the hands of the community rather than be sold to an individual. After we took ownership of the building, he helped with renovations. Wayne had a strong love of family and Southwest Harbor. He cared for cemeteries around town, and was also a member of the SWH Historic Cemetery Committee. He was a kind man, a humorous man, and a great storyteller. We will miss him, and send our thoughts to his family.



I close with a photo of a painting by Margaret Wellington which hangs in our museum area. Shown is the Manset Union Church and the Manset Library during their busy days as vital parts of the community. The library no longer stands, but we do have plans for shelves filled with books on local history. The church does still stand, regally and prominently. We work to fill it with vitality. There is lots of work that can be done, and we can always use your help. Send us an email or phone call, and we will talk!

Hope to see you this summer!

Patty Pinkham, Southwest Harbor Historical Society
(207)244-8063, southwestharborhistorical@gmail.com

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

Uldene Norman & Ruth Farrar by Elaine Spurling
Wayne Gilley by George & Marion Peckham
Wayne Gilley by John & Becky Burnham

Edna & George Jellison by Ruth Jellison
Wayne Gilley by Lynne Birlem
Wayne Gilley by Aimee Williams

and from Ms. Patsy Newman Costello in memory of her father, Manford Alton Newman, born in Manset, Maine, April 27, 1897 and died in Hyde Park, NY, on September 3, 1968.

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

Richard Allen
Lynne Birlem
Charles Butt
Mildred Chalmers
Polly Clement
Dysart's Service
Stan & Sandra Gott

Betsey Holtzmann
Kristin Hutchins
Ruth Jellison
Jane Kenney
Janice Kenyon & George Soules
Edward & Christine O'Leary
Henry Raup

Louise Riemer
Leslie Watson
Phil Whitney
Jim & Cathy Willey
Aimee Williams

By Patty Pinkham, Cont'd from Page 1



Chris Closs of Maine Preservation (pictured at left) visited our steeple in February and offered much with his technical expertise and experience. Local contractors Larry Albee and Eric Henry (pictured at right) were on hand to join us and climb into the belfry. Initial experienced opinions are that the steeple is repairable and important, and hopefully we will receive funds to help with restoration. We are now working to get an assessment by an approved steeple contractor as our next step.



Other renovations in the initial discussion/planning phase now are:

- *painting the sanctuary
- *best way to exhibit boat building displays, boat models, half models
- *how to utilize the dry full cellar for archival storage
- *consideration of security/safety systems
- *preservation needs of the stained glass windows.

Computer and scanning equipment has been purchased to digitize our collection. Work is ongoing. The museum will open this summer, with plans for growth in the future.

Our Capital Campaign Committee meets regularly and is planning much for the year ahead. It promises to be a busy one. Pictured at left from left to right are Al Michaud, Patty Pinkham, Aimee Williams, Kathe Newman Walton, and Lynne Birlem. Not pictured is Phil Whitney.

We hope that in addition to renewing your membership, you will consider making a donation or a three-year pledge to our campaign. The

work we do now will establish a strong foundation for the future of our organization and this community.

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you July 14.

Southwest Harbor Historic Cemetery Committee by Patty Pinkham

The first public cemetery on Mt. Desert Island, the Old Burying Ground at 16 High Road in Southwest Harbor, underwent a tree-removal project this past winter. Eagle Arborculture removed 32 tall and strong trees during a February



cold spell when there was a foot or more of hard-packed snow on the ground. This snow proved to be a very beneficial protection for the gravestones. The arborists used our map and photos to determine open areas for movement of trees with their walk-behind skid steer. Taller gravestones were covered with teepees and garbage cans. Each day when we visited the site, arborists were high up in the trees. The view must have been spectacular, but they sure looked cold.

The committee is focusing during this upcoming year on further work in the Old Burying Ground, and preparing to address the needs in the King Cemetery at King's Lane in Manset. This cemetery is one of our town's smaller ones and is in extreme need of work. A neighbor has offered to clear some trees with his equipment so we can focus our energy and finances on the stones and groundwork.

By Henryetta Ponczek

It's summer, the season of our "national pastime," baseball. The history of baseball in the United States can be traced to the 19th century, when amateurs played a baseball-like game by their own informal rules using homemade equipment. (Wikipedia) Jesse Parker, in his *Recollections of SWH, Maine, 1885-1894*, Page 43, describes just such a game.



"Each town usually had a loosely organized baseball team, which played on July 4th and once in a while during the summer. It was very difficult to get a team together as most of the boys and young men worked. The hotel guests sometimes formed a team. The games were played on a field between the Congregational Church and the road to the milldam. Some games were delayed while a part of the field was being mowed and the hay racked up. Each side furnished a new ball at the start of the game and these two balls remained in play throughout the game and became property of the winner. When a ball was lost in the tall grass, time would be called and the spectators would join in the hunt. Although there were some players of good natural ability the lack of practice and the rough field on which the games were played made it difficult to develop a real good team."



Pemetic yearbooks of the 1930's show that school baseball teams were active even though they played without an adequate playing field until 1949. This from the 1939 *Pemetic*: "Pemetic's baseball team of 1938 was one of the best that the school has ever turned out. Although handicapped by the lack of an adequate playing field the team under the supervision of Mr. Merrill won all but two of the season's games....Because of weather conditions the squad was late in starting practice this year. This coupled with the fact that there is no home field available makes it impossible for a definite schedule to be drawn up." W. Harding '39

Pictured at left from the 1937 *Pemetic*, seated, Ralph Ramsdell, Charles Sawyer, Jr., Harold Worcester, Richard Black, Paul Robinson; standing, Alton Lewis, Lawrence Berry, David Harding, Arthur Kittredge.



Fast forward to the 1940's and '50's when neighborhood boys were still organizing teams to play against each other. Fred Pinkham, whose name recurs in future baseball records, had his own team, labelled in this photo as Fred's Manset Cubs. In the back row are Dennis Ellis, Eddie Smith, John Wellington, Fred Thurston, and Roscoe Dolliver. In the front row are Jim Thurston and leader Fred Pinkham.

Another team was organized of those living in the area north from the Manset Union Church to Manset Corner. They were Al Michaud, David Cunio, Charlie and Kelsey Farley, Dave Jellison, Tony Moody and Murray Hinckley. An early field that they played in was a sheep pasture where Adam Thurston lives now. A ram in the pasture would "put the horns to you" if you turned your back on it. A later field

was located where the Catholic church now sits. The field was vacant for a time after the Ocean House hotel that had been there was demolished. At times the Air Force Crash Rescue crew, which was stationed on the

Cont'd on Page 5

Cont'd from Page 4

Manset shore, would play with the boys' teams even though they were much older than the boys. Equipment was used and reused. When the cover came off a ball, it would be taped with Bulldog tape. If a bat broke, it was glued and screwed back together and used until it broke again.

At the same time that kids were organizing informal pickup games, teams existed in the high school and towns. We have several photos of school teams during the 1940's and '50's, although not much space is given to baseball in the yearbooks.

1952 Baseball team

Front row: Bernard Woods, Carleton Dow, Reggie Smith, Lowell Woods, Merton Murphy

Back row: Raymond Billings Manager, Jay Boomer, John Moore, Jack Gilley, Coach Mr. Anibal Oliver, Everett Kelley, Richard Smith, Dave Paine, Edwin Brown.



In 1951 Reggie Smith, pictured in the front row, pitched a no-hit, no-run game against Bar Harbor with 11 strike outs and no walks. The score was PemetiC 9, Bar Harbor 0. Mr. Smith has donated the game ball to the historical society.

Don Reed, Class of 1950, is mentioned in the yearbook as the leading hitter that year with a .500 batting average. In a memory accompanying his baseball uniform from that time, he says, "Soon after WWII baseball became a very popular pastime in most of the villages and towns in Maine. Southwest Harbor was no exception. The "Town Team" played throughout most of the summer. On the Fourth of July each year there always was a doubleheader with a team from the Eastern Maine League. The games played in front of the hometown folks were always played at Seawall in the old gravel pit. That was our home field until the new diamond was built in back of the high school about 1949. Teams in the league were Ellsworth (two teams), Brewer (two teams), Bucksport, Bar Harbor, and Southwest Harbor. There may have been a couple more." So we come full circle to Jesse Parker's memory of playing a Fourth of July game for the townspeople but in a much more organized, formalized way.



Readers' Responses

Lynne Birem remembered something about the Seawall Campground featured in our last newsletter. "The campground was free to use for picnics. My family (I was born in 1940) always had an Easter picnic and many others during the year. It was so lightly used during the war that we had favorite sites and would be annoyed to find one occupied by campers. The elementary school held a year-end picnic for all grades in early June.

Leighton Wass corrected an error made in our November 2018 newsletter. In an article by Leighton, "White's Basketball Court," "Toots" Sullivan was mentioned as someone playing at White's Court. The nickname wasn't "Toots," it was "Tiddles."

PemetiC Reunion 2019

From Sharon Lawson - PemetiC Alumni weekend is Saturday, June 29, from 12:00 to 4:00. It will be held at the Manset Church, now owned by the Historical Society. Join us and catch up with classmates and friends. Danny Harper and his band will play from 7 PM to 9 PM.

All programs are held at the Manset Union Meetinghouse, home of the Southwest Harbor Historical Society, at 192 Seawall Road in Manset.



June 28 Friday 7 PM. Remembering Pemetic High School.

Sharon Lawson, Phil Whitney, and Kathe Walton

Pemetic High School opened its doors in 1908, having separated from the Town of Tremont in 1905 and creating the Town of Southwest Harbor to support a high school. Sixty years later in 1968 the last high school class graduated. Join us for a night remembering the Pemetic High School of SWH, Tremont, the Cranberries, and Swans Island students, teachers, staff and antics!

July 17 Wednesday 7 PM. Lobstering 101, Plus.

John Stanley and Holly Masterson



August 21 Wednesday 7 PM. "I Have Not Yet Begun to Fight," John Paul Jones, Revolutionary War Hero.

Cindy Robertson

John Brown, who is buried in the Manset burying ground behind the Manset Union Meetinghouse, crewed on John Paul Jones' *Bonhomme Richard* during its famous battle against the British vessel *Serapis* in the North Sea.

September 18 Wednesday 7 PM. The Evolution of the Claremont Hotel.

Maurice "Joe" Marshall

In 1978 the Claremont Hotel was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Opened in 1884, it stands as one of the last reminders of Maine's early summer resort period of the 1870's and '80's. Presenter Joe Marshall has a personal connection to the hotel.



October 16 Wednesday 7 PM. Past Insults, Planned Restorations, and Preparing for an Uncertain Future in the Marshall Brook Watershed.

Brian Henkel, Wild Acadia Project Coordinator

The Marshall Brook watershed, including Bass Harbor Marsh, has been impacted by many activities. Friends of Acadia, along with Acadia National Park, are working to assess and hopefully repair some of these impacts. Brian Henkel will discuss some of the known impacts and potential improvements to promote ecological integrity. He'll then ask, "What do you see and what are your priorities?"

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Rich attended Parents' day for the Freshmen at the University of Maine last week. Their daughter Judith returned home with them for the weekend.

Harry Waugh is a patient at the MDI hospital with a broken heel.

Philip Carroll, Dr. Ernest Coffin, John Pottle also George Weaver of Ashland returned home Monday after spending one week at Daquaam, Canada on a deer hunting trip.

Mrs. Joseph Lawler is a patient at St. Joseph's hospital in Bangor.

Mrs. Urban Hutchins is staying with Mrs. Lynn Goulding.

Mrs. Philip Carroll has been visiting her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Fernald, and their daughter Cynthia at Westfield, N.J. She also visited another daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Aikman in Roselle, N.J.

Robert Perkins of Cheshire, Conn. spent the weekend visiting his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Perkins.

He was accompanied here by James Norwood and his son, Robie who visited Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hamlen.

Mrs. Lena Workman is working in the household of John Carroll.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanwood King and their granddaughter, Leslie Lee King, recently spent a weekend at their camp at Wesley.

Sgt. and Mrs. Richard Smith of Burlington, Mass. and their children, Jean and Timmy were here to attend the wedding of his brother Reynold Smith. Jean and Timmy are visiting their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Cousins, at Northeast Harbor. Sgt. and Mrs. Smith and his

SOUTHWEST HARBOR

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS

Mrs. Norman J. Walsh Telephone CH 4-5497

mother, Mrs. William Smith returned to Burlington Monday to make arrangements for moving. Sgt. Smith will attend school in Georgia for several months and Mrs. Smith and children will visit her parents while he is away.

Mr. and Mrs. William V. Johnston recently spent a weekend visiting their sons John and Charles at Tabor academy at Marian, Mass.

The Senior class presented the Great Romantic Melodrama "Lily the Felon's Daughter" Friday evening at the Pemetie auditorium under the direction of Elizabeth Denihan, of the Pemetie faculty.

Members of the cast were Sandra Norwood, Jonalee Crafts, Darrell Hubbs, Brian Trask, Harvard Vine, Candy Christian, Eddie Smith, Rebecca Gilley, Nancy Galley and Mike Dawes.

In the absence of Mildred Bartlett who is in the hospital, Alberta Stanley was pianist.

Stage manager, Larry Reynolds assisted by George James, Carl Kelley, Fritz Mattern, Dave Robinson.

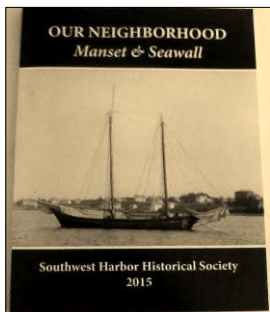
Costumes by Barbetta Davis, Ann Higgins, Donna Wentworth.

Business managers, Dexter Lee and Avis Richardson.

Music was furnished by the Pemetie band under the direction of Alton Robinson.

Ushers were Beth Goodwin, Ann Higgins, Martha Sawyer and Lynne Thomas.

Members of the Pemetie Chapter FHA will go to Machias Thursday (today) to a District B. FHA Convention. Pemetie Chapter is responsible for nominations of district officers. Sandra Norwood, senior at Pemetie high school is the district B. recorder.

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 2018 and 2019. **The date above your name on the blue 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.**

WEB SITE 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.

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