

SOUTHWEST HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

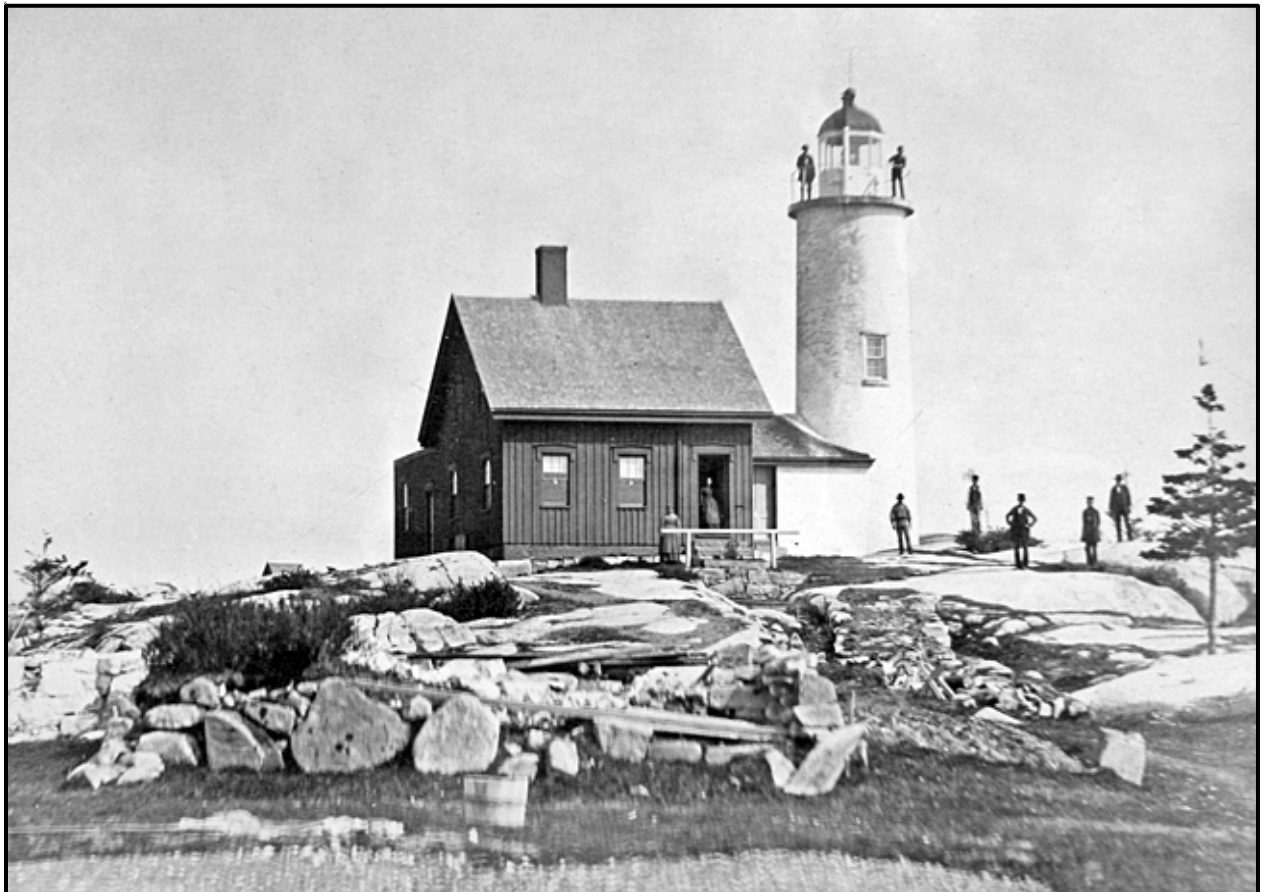


The Sou'west Voyage

Norwood Cove Greening Island Southwest Harbor Manset Seawall
Published February, June, November JUNE 2020

Baker Island and Mt. Desert Rock Lighthouses

Soon after statehood in 1820, Maine established two lighthouses along its rocky coast just off Mount Desert Island. The first was Baker Island lighthouse in 1828; the second was Mt. Desert Rock lighthouse in 1830.



■ Baker Island Lighthouse, 1859, National Archives

Cont'd on Page 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Sou'west Voyage June 2020 Page 2

As I am writing this in early May, times are uncertain due to COVID-19 that has basically shut down the entire United States. Since last fall, our committees have been meeting until this shutdown.

The Program Committee has some good ideas for upcoming programs, so we are hopeful that we will be open this summer and able to present the interesting programs for our members and friends to enjoy, which are-

- June/CANCELLED: Our Town 1820 – A celebration of State of Maine Bicentennial
- July/CANCELLED: A history of Trails & Footpaths of SWH
- August/DOUBTFUL: Fishing Industry
- September/HOPEFUL: Annual Meeting/Stores & Merchants from the Past
- October/HOPEFUL: Local Healthcare History

Please note the current status of each program, as listed after the month above.

We have contracted with a museum consultant to help with the design of our spaces and create an inviting and interesting museum environment. She is excited that we have a “blank slate” to work with rather than trying to reconfigure an existing exhibit space. Upon board approval, my hope is the first project will be the installation of an artifact hanging system in the Great Room (former sanctuary).

Take care, stay safe, and hope to see you soon.

Aimee Williams 207-244-7735
aimeewilliams363@gmail.com

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

Albers, Brenda & Bruce
Amendt, Alan & Diane
Andrews, Alexandra & Dave
Biebesheimer, Frederick
Braun, Duane & Ruth
Burnham, John & Rebecca
Carlson, Bruce & Rebecca
Claremont, Inc.
Clark-Dickey, Tammy
Clement, Polly
Colquhoun, Leza & Jim
Donahue, Maria & Ryan
Fletcher, Brenda

Fuerst, Joanne & Richard
Glass, Peter & Elisabeth
Goodell, Carisa
Henry, Erik & Kate
Hirsch, Melissa & Scott
Jacobson, Jake
Judd, Lee & Ann
Keener, Donald
Killick Fund
Madeira, Paul
Marshall, Maurice “Joe”
Pott, Judith

Robbins, Eleanor
Roberge, Korel & Bill
Salvatore, Sidney
Smith, Kirk & Nancy
Soules, George & Janice
Kenyon
Stanley, John
Urmstom, Donald & Andrea
Young, Jacqueline
Young, Jason
Zawacki, Joe & MaryLou

In Memory Donations. In Memory of

Jeffrey Robert Reed by Beth Reed
Peggy Walls by Eugene Walls
Gladys E. Whitmore by Liza & Edwin Butler, Jr.
Gladys Whitmore Butler by Liza & Edwin Butler, Jr.
B. Conley Worcester, Jr. by Mark C. Worcester
Annabel (Dam) Worcester by Mark C. Worcester
Earl & Barbara Moser by Aimee Williams
Earl & Barbara Moser by Bud & Peggy Kenney
Betty King by Anne & Bruce Pomery
Thomas Coward by Joan Davis
Earl Moser by Joan & Wilbert Terry
Alan R. Mace by Matthew Mace
Oscar, Inez, & Emery Krantz by Charlie & Frankie Johnson

Jack Madore by Loretta Rogers
Leslie Thurston by Bill & Kathy Thurnau
Edna & George Jellison, Sr. by Bruce & Brenda Albers
Edna Jellison by Aimee Williams
George Jellison, Sr. by Aimee Williams
Pete Crafts by John & Rebecca Burnham
Polly Lawrence by Sam Lawrence
Patricia Waters by Jennifer Waters & T. Peterson
Earl Moser by George Jellison, Jr.
Nettie Silva Family by Julie & Cecil Fernald
Elizabeth Stanley & William Soukup by Georgia A. Tuttle, MD

Paul Williams by Bruce & Brenda Albers, John & Rebecca Burnham, Susan Covino Buell, Donald & Marilyn Chambers, Mary Freeman, George Jellison, Jr., Ruth Jellison, Bud & Peggy Kenney, Thomas Macmillan, Al & Donna Michaud, Susan B. Newman, Patricia Pinkham, Elissa Roberts, Charles Stanhope, Kathe & Dan Walton

Bud Sanner by Lynne Birlem, Susan Covino Buell, Kristin Hutchins, Jackie & Luckie Young

Jarvis Newman by Sheldon & Jill Goldthwaite, Lee & Anne Judd, Linda & Stephen Merriam, Sarah & Peter Philbrook, Joan & Wilbert Terry, Kathe & Dan Walton, Robert & Shirley Zinn

LIGHTHOUSES

Cont'd from Page 1

Baker Island Lighthouse. Baker Island is a 123-acre island four miles off Mount Desert Island with a rocky approach that made landings impossible. The William and Hannah Gilley family had been living there since 1812, so when the federal government needed a keeper for its recently built lighthouse, William was a natural choice.

“Built of rubblestone, the twenty-six-foot-tall tower was topped by an octagonal lantern, with a wrought iron frame and copper dome, that housed ten lamps, backed by fifteen-inch reflectors and arranged in two rows one above the other. The tower and keeper’s dwelling cost \$3,800.”

Lighthouse families were supplied with the bare essentials, flour and pickled foodstuffs in barrels, for example. The Gilleys raised pigs, sheep, ducks, chickens, and cows. There were also the omnipresent lobsters and fish. The island had 10 acres of arable land on which the Gilleys raised vegetables, fruit, and flax for linen clothing. Sheep wool was spun for clothing and blankets. Although life was generally happy, an inspection report only 14 years after the lighthouse was built noted that the walls were cracked, the kitchen had started to separate from the tower, the deck was loose and leaky, and the interior walls and stairs were coated with ice during the winter.

William Gilley stayed as lighthouse keeper until 1848 when he was removed from the politically-awarded position because he wouldn’t support the Whig Party. He, therefore, gave up the grand salary of \$350, which was a fortune to many at the time. His older sons sometime later asserted a claim to the island, a claim that ended up in court. The court awarded the US government 19 acres around the lighthouse and a right-of-way to the boat landing, while the Gilleys were awarded the rest of the island.

In 1855 the dwelling and tower were rebuilt on the island’s highest point of land far from the sea and a modern Fresnel lens was installed. Over the years more modern conveniences arrived on the island: a brick oil house (1895); a telephone line connected to Northeast Harbor (1898); a fuel house (1905). The light was deactivated in 1955 but was then reactivated in 1957 as an unattended aid to navigation. During its lifetime 15 keepers lived there, with names like Gilley, Rich, Bunker, Young, Jordan, Lopaus, Robbins, Connors, King, Muise, Faulkingham, Holcomb, and Mathie.

Today the National Park Service owns the lighthouse and its land with the intention of leasing the historic station to a responsible party.

Mount Desert Rock Lighthouse *(Photo below from our files)*



Cont'd on Page 4

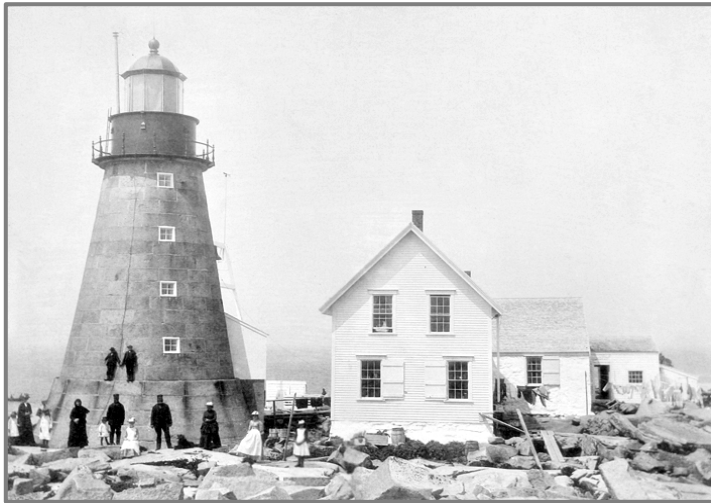
LIGHTHOUSES

Cont'd from Page 3

The Sou'west Voyage June 2020 Page 4

“Mount Desert Rock is one of the most isolated and desolate places ever used as a site for a lighthouse in the United States. Located off the shore of Maine, twenty-six miles from the nearest harbor, the rocky islet is only 600 yards long and 200 yards wide, and its highest point is only twenty feet above the sea at low tide. During storms, the entire island can be submerged by waves. Being a keeper at this remote station was a true test of endurance.” Nevertheless, Congress allocated \$5,000 in 1829 for a lighthouse here. The work was started by builder Gamaliel E. Smith who was dismissed after progress on the project was too slow, and was completed by Joseph Berry. He finished the work in the summer of 1830 on a stone dwelling surmounted by a wooden tower and “bird cage” lantern.

Only one year after the lighthouse had been built it was in a state of decay, apparently because of poor materials and construction practices. The dwelling was also in bad order, with leaks and smoke damage. Still, it wasn't until 1847 that Congress authorized \$15,000 for the rebuilding of the lighthouse. The keeper and his family still lived in the old stone dwelling. Over the years it seemed constant repairs and changes needed to be made. In 1853 a fog bell; in 1855 an assistant keeper assigned to the station; in 1857 a new lantern room and Fresnel lens; in 1867 a second assistant keeper was added; in 1876 a one-and-a-half-story frame dwelling was built; in 1887 a 45-foot-tall bell tower was erected. *(At left, lighthouse with residents of 1876 frame dwelling and original dwelling. Photograph courtesy National Archives.)*



(At left, lighthouse with residents of 1876 frame dwelling and original dwelling. Photograph courtesy National Archives.)

Few keepers lasted very long at this station. Rufus King - almost 6 years; his replacement George Booth - 17 months; Booth's replacement - less than 8 months. One keeper, Thomas Milan managed almost 20 years. And even in 1977 when the Coast Guard had tried to make life more bearable with books, radios, TV, video games, and a pool table, one of the last two keepers, said that after his first 24 hours of duty on the rock he was “ready to scream.”

Assistance to mariners was a primary concern, but “sometimes it was the keepers themselves that needed to be rescued. Forty-

three-year-old Henry C. Ray drowned in 1920 when he and Maurice R. Beal, the other assistant keeper, were thrown from the lighthouse dory during an attempted landing. Keeper Harry E. Freeman managed to rescue Beal, but Henry Ray was swept away and drowned in full view of his wife.”

Because Mount Desert Rock was such a desolate place where practically nothing grew, fishermen would bring bags of dirt to the rock in the spring, which would be packed in the crevices. The plants thrived so well in the cold, moist atmosphere that the rock developed a reputation for being a floral paradise for a short time in the summer. As might be expected, the huge waves washing across the rock area during the rest of the year washed away all the soil, and the process began again in the spring.

Not long after the lighthouse was destaffed in 1977 the station was transferred to the College of the Atlantic in 1998 and remains an active aid to navigation. In 2014 Jacomien and Forrest Mars, of Mars candy fame, donated \$425,000 to upgrade the facilities. They had become interested in the college's experiential outpost at the Rock after meeting Sean Todd, chairman of the marine studies program at the college.

The information for this article has been liberally paraphrased from the website lighthousefriends.com. It is a wealth of information for anyone interested in a more comprehensive report on Maine lighthouses. Quoted material is from the same site.

A READER RESPONDS. The article about the Clark dairy in our November newsletter elicited this memory from JoAnne and Richard Fuerst of Mt. Desert about driver Hank Joyce.

“We vividly remember Hank Joyce. Think it was late 1976, we had just moved into our house, and husband and I were in our flannel jammies in the parlor. Suddenly we heard someone in the kitchen calling out—we were so startled! Yep, it was Hank. He had noticed the new folks' cars and wanted to know if we wanted to start milk deliveries. We did. After that, our most vivid memory of Hank was getting stuck behind his milk truck coming back onto the Island from Ellsworth. He was a mighty SLOW driver. It happened so often it became a standard joke for us.”

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE The Sou'west Voyage June 2020 Page 5

As the name suggests, the Collections Committee is in charge of the many artifacts donated to the historical society. Being “in charge” means more than just accepting them with our thanks. They must be inventoried and stored appropriately, with the thought that in some way they are meant to be available to the public. The committee has been formulating a collection policy, something that has become all the more important since the society bought the Manset church and we have been receiving many more artifacts. With the increased inventory, appropriate storage becomes a concern. Shelving in the Gleaners Hall contains much of what we own, with larger items like business signs stored in the basement. The committee physically reviews the donated items and makes recommendations to the full board on acceptance of the item.

One way to make an artifact publicly available is through displays in our meetinghouse. The committee is always thinking about displays that best represent the history of the community. At present display space is limited to two cases in the sanctuary and wall space scattered throughout the building. In the works is consideration of a hanging system by which an artifact could be displayed and changed periodically. Since the society holds its programs in the sanctuary, seating space has to be reserved in the center of the sanctuary. The committee has worked with the program committee to coordinate displays with the topic of a program. For example, last June when the Pemetic reunion group held their annual get-together at the meetinghouse, the collections committee created appropriate displays. And for our July 2019 program on lobstering, they did likewise.

A second way to make an artifact publicly available is through the internet. We do have a website (swlhs.org) at which you will find “Collection Digital Archive.” Click on it to find a searchable listing of what we’ve inventoried so far. It will always be a work in progress as far as making new entries and providing additional information of what we already list, but it does have a description and location of many articles in our meetinghouse. There are over 1,300 items listed.

Although we have our own website, we are involved in the History Trust to make our collections more widely available. History Trust is a group of eleven local organizations committed to working together to 1. share their expertise and resources, 2. create a central on-line site to access the collections of the eleven organizations, 3. improve the standards of care for all the collections. Those organizations are the Southwest Harbor Historical Society, Tremont Historical Society, MDI Historical Society, Great Cranberry Island Historical Society, Islesford Historical Society, Great Harbor Maritime Museum, College of Atlantic Library, Seal Cove Auto Museum, Bar Harbor Village Improvement Society, Jesup Library, and the Seacoast Mission.

In theory, someone wanting information about a particular subject could go to a central website and be connected to any of the eleven organization websites. The central website has yet to be set up. Our representative to the regular meetings of the History Trust is Lynne Birlem, who then reports to our full board. Lynne also coordinated with History Trust and the Northeast Document Conservation Center on an inservice held at our meetinghouse last October 25 and 26. The inservice focused on preservation of our collections, including assessing our storage space needs, exhibits, and equipment needs as well as handling, reformatting, and digitizing paper-based and photo collections.

Oh my, oh my, this is certainly an interesting time for all of us. The program committee had planned several programs for this summer, starting in June, going through October. Keeping everyone's health and safety in mind, we will revisit all of these decisions as we, hopefully, move further away from this virus. We will decide, as the season goes along, which programs should have priority in this bicentennial year and which you would most enjoy being part of once we can get back out in our world. Please watch for notices in the local paper and around town for upcoming programs held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 PM at the Historical Society Meetinghouse in Manset. Stay well,

Karen Craig
Program Committee Chairperson

But that doesn't prevent us from looking at some program highlights from 2010 that haven't received wide exposure.



CCC Camp Off Long Pond Road, 7/20/2010

A representative of Acadia National Park made the presentation with general background on the nationwide Depression era program as well as specifics on the group in Southwest Harbor. This camp was one of two on the island. It opened June 1933 and closed in the spring of 1941 with the onset of WWII.



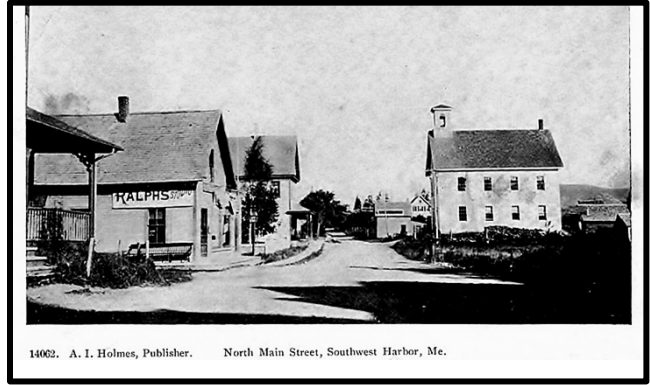
“The camp was located at the height of ground on the west side of the road leading from Southwest Harbor village to the south end of Great Pond.” Enrollees erected and lived in tents while construction of the covered barracks went on. “An aerial photo dated September 5, 1933 shows four barracks buildings and four service buildings in place. Officers quarters, dispensary and living quarters for the commanding officer were added later. The last two were of log construction.”



It was a typical 200-man camp; all enrollees were Maine residents. Living conditions, discipline and in-camp activities were under the supervision of the US Army. For most, living conditions were an improvement over depression year living conditions at home. The camp's primary function was forest culture—roads, trails, recreation. One project that benefitted the town was to the Evergreen Cemetery, also known as the Carroll Hill Cemetery. Nell Thornton mentions that in 1934 the stone wall on the eastern side of the cemetery was rebuilt and the broken fence was replaced. *Information is taken from SWH Public Library article “Organization History: Company 158 – Conservation Corps, Great Pond [Long Pond] Camp.”*

**SAWYER'S MARKET:
THE CHANGING FACE OF MAIN STREET**

Sawyer's Market, with that name, has been around for 74 years. Its recent closure and sale will change things. Pictured here are the changes over the years to the site at 344 Main Street and to the store facade.



Jeweler J. C. Ralph was a jeweler who moved to Southwest Harbor in 1888. He built this store in 1895 as he expanded into optometry. Making bike repairs and serving as postmaster and constable followed. The man in the picture is W. H. Kittredge.



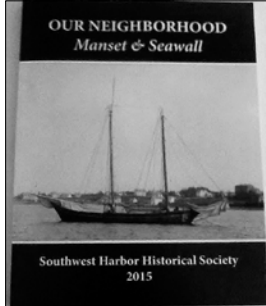
On Monday, March 27, 1922, the principal business district of Southwest Harbor was destroyed by fire. The photo at left looks toward the library, which was left undamaged. By this time the Ralph building had been owned by Thomas Lawton who operated a variety store there. Rebuilding began immediately. By 1946 Ralph Sawyer (seen in the photo on right), brother Charles, and Charles, Jr. opened the market.



Don Worcester took ownership of the business in June of 1959 after Ralph Sawyer approached him, saying that if Worcester didn't buy the business, he was going to close the store. It quickly became a family concern involving wife Mary and sons Brian and Scott. Hours went from 7 AM to 5:30 PM, Monday through Saturday, with Don arriving at 5:30 AM. Deliveries to private homes and to the Cranberries were a big part of the business. The first expansion was done in 1991, doubling the store's size. A second expansion was done in the late '90's when the market took over adjacent space that had been the Bar Harbor Bank & Trust. In February 2020 the store went on the market.

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
 - NEW Lobstering 101, Plus;** John Stanley & Holly Masterson, Speakers
 - NEW The Evolution of the Claremont Hotel;** Maurice “Joe” Marshall, Speaker
- Members \$11 Non-members \$12
Please add \$3 per item for shipping.

Orders for the book 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 2019 and 2020. **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. Those who elect email delivery will still receive the November newsletter by regular mail because we enclose a return envelope with that mailing.**

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: Aimee Williams, Pres.; Leslie Watson, VP; Patty Pinkham, Treas.; Board Members: Lynne Birlem, John Burnham, Karen Craig, Julie Fernald, G. Bernice Klausky, Bernie Mauger, Al Michaud, Henryetta Ponczek, Ralph Stanley, Rich Viera, Kathe Walton.

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



LSRobinson 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

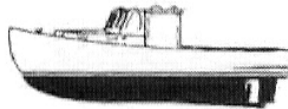
Grocery & Take Out

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

Newman Marine Brokerage

245 Main Street
Southwest Harbor, Maine 04679
877 239 9148 toll free
807 266 5574
207 244 0480 fax
info@jarvisnewman.us
www.jarvisnewman.us

Jarvis Newman, Broker
Kathe N. Walton, Broker



(207) 244-1233
QuiltFabric@gmail.com



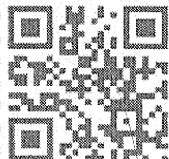
Quilts, Fabric, Yarn, Needlepoint
Notions, And Gifts

Ruth Davis
Owner

11 Sealcove Rd.
Southwest Harbor Shoppes #5

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