

The Sou'West Voyage

TRADITIONS AND RECORDS

Norwood Cove

Southwest Harbor

Greening Island

Manset

Seawall

November 2015 SOUTHWEST HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Published three times yearly: February, June, and November

SWHHS.org



Recently the *Mount Desert Islander* wrote that the owners of the Seawall Motel plan to replace the restaurant building on their property with weekly rental apartments. “David and Vickie Lloyd bought the Seawall Motel and the eatery known as Annabelle’s Seawall Dining Room from longtime owner Annabelle Robbins in 2000.” And therein lies the following tale of Annabelle’s.

Seawall Dining Room & Cabins • 1959

The predecessor of what is today recognized as the Seawall Dining Room and Motel in Manset commenced during 1935 as a take out stand operated by Lizzie Moon. After a period of several years, Kenneth and Ruth Amino purchased the business and they added several cabins to the site. In 1959, Annabelle Robbins bought the dining room (seating capacity of 19) and five seasonal house-keeping cottages. The cabins had wood stoves for heat and cooking. Annabelle supplied the wood for each unit. All five had cold running water that consisted of a plastic pipe on top of the ground hooked up to town water on a

(Cont'd on Page 3)

It has been a fun summer with the historical society, a summer that went by much too fast. We had four successful programs ending with the annual meeting and the presentation of *Our Neighborhood—Manset & Seawall*, a book that has been in the process for nine years. There have been many hours, many people and many meetings dedicated to this outcome. We are so fortunate that John and Becky Burnham were willing to work so hard and were able to bring this all together. The books are really selling well and are already in the second printing.

Our next project is the burial ground on the High Road, believed to be the oldest public cemetery on the island. To give you an idea of the scope of this undertaking, the project will start with the removal of 20 trees so large that they will require special equipment. As you can imagine, this will also be quite expensive.

As you are making out your check for the annual dues, please give some consideration to making a donation to the society. We work hard to make sure that your dollars go as far as possible keeping the history of Southwest Harbor alive and relevant.

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

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

Phyllis Acadia	Richard Allen	Janice Antczak
Hector Diaz	Jane Gray Fund/The Winston-Salem Foundation	
Loman J. Morneault, Jr.	L. S. Robinson Insurance	Doug & Kim Storey
Paul White	Keith & Mary Wozniak	

Officers: Karen Craig, Pres.; Phil Whitney, V.P.; Lynne Birlem, Treas.; Henryetta Ponczek, Sec.;
Board Members: John Burnham, Bob Davis, Margaret Delehanty, Jack Gilley, Wayne Gilley, Bernie Mauger, Ralph Stanley, Kathe Walton, Warren Worcester.

Newsletter editor: Henryetta Ponczek

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**.

seasonal basis. The dining room had the same system, except hot water was also available. Cooking was done on an oil stove. In addition to providing the firewood for the cabins, Annabelle also did all the laundry for the guests and ironed the sheets and pillow cases on a mangle. This was done in an addition that she had built onto the dining room. Bathroom facilities were non-existent during 1959. Each cabin had its own outhouse. The waste had to be emptied every day from the buckets and deposited into a cesspool. Lime was spread where needed. After one year of this chore, Annabelle built a large structure with toilets and shower facilities, complete with a septic system. A small addition was added to the dining room, increasing the seating capacity to 27. The cabins were always rented for the full season and maximum rent was \$100 per week, everything included. She quickly realized that even with her success, a seasonal operation had its limitations and expansion was essential. In 1961-62, Annabelle qualified for an S.B.A. loan and the existing dining room was constructed - to which additions have been made three times since. Of the five cabins, three were moved and the remaining two were torn down, lumber from which was used to construct a double garage. The restaurant became a full time operation until Annabelle opened a new motel on the property in 1982. After some remodeling, the original dining room became living quarters for Annabelle's parents and after they passed away, became a home for Rita Johnson's parents. Today the structure serves as a seasonal rental unit for the staff.

SEAWALL DINING ROOM-Seawall, Maine



ROAST CHICKEN	BOILED LOBSTER	LOBSTER SALAD
	LOBSTER STEW	
FISH CHOWDER	HALIBUT STEAK	HAM STEAK
SPECIAL STEAK	HAMBURG STEAK	FRIED CHICKEN
LUNCHES	FRIED CLAMS	SANDWICHES

SPECIAL MEALS BY RESERVATION

Tel. Southwest Harbor
CHestnut 4-3020

Annabelle Robbins
Naomi Trundy

11:00
Open from [REDACTED] A.M. to 9:00 P.M.

[REDACTED] Lunch

Dinner

State of Maine Sales Tax 3%

We continued our program series with a variety of interesting topics and speakers. Here are summaries of those programs.



June 17 A Night of Music; Ralph Stanley and Jim Vekasi; Kathe Walton, Organizer

Although originally scheduled as Ruth Grierson and Ralph Stanley, the night featured Ralph and Jim Vekasi when Ruth was unavailable. Jim has played the mandolin for about 50 years and has been part of two bands, Dog Mountain and Big Moose. Before the music started, Ralph explained how he makes his violins—a fallen tree or an old house being torn down, for example. He and Jim then treated us to toe-tapping music.



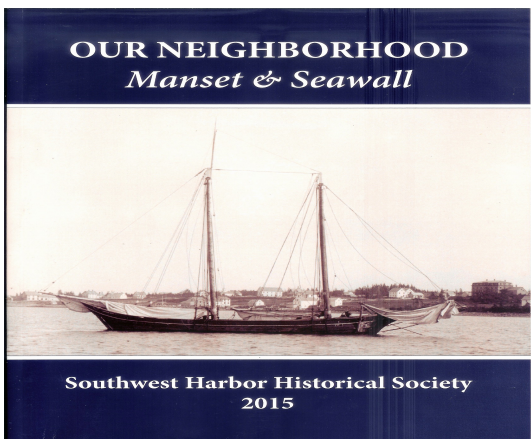
July 15 Lobstering; John Stanley; Jack Gilley, Organizer

He said that he wasn't a public speaker, but John Stanley had no trouble keeping the audience entertained with stories of his Manset childhood, his college days, and his current life as a Southwest Harbor lobsterman and pharmacist. He brought with him some lobstering equipment as well as some live lobsters. He also wore his nifty lobster shirt.



August 19 Bird Carving; Nina Gormley and Steven Valleau; Jack Gilley, Organizer

Nina Gormley from the Wendell Gilley Museum described Wendell Gilley's progression from a local plumber to a nationally recognized expert bird carver. Steven Valleau, teacher at the museum, explained what is available at the museum for those interested in learning how to carve. He was followed by a film of an interview with Wendell Gilley in 1981, two years before his death.



September 16 A Preview of a New Publication; John and Becky Burnham

In a power point presentation, John Burnham explained the set up of the book and its scope. Originally meant to cover only the two sides of Manset and Seawall Roads from Manset Corner, it eventually became obvious that the many side roads branching off from the main road needed to be included. Several photos from the book were highlighted, to the appreciation of the audience.

On Wednesday, September 16, the historical society conducted its annual meeting.

President Karen Craig began the meeting by summarizing the accomplishments and goals of the society and introducing current board members. The secretary's report and treasurer's report from last year were reviewed and passed without discussion.

Nominating Committee member Bob Davis presented board officers names for a one-year term: Karen Craig, President; Phil Whitney, Vice President; Lynne Birlem, Treasurer; and Henryetta Ponczek, Secretary. Those board members renewed for three-year terms are Margaret Delehanty and Warren Worcester; for a two-year term, Bernie Mauger.

FISCAL 2015 TREASURER'S REPORT

For the fiscal year ended August 31, 2015, the bank balance was \$19,140, an increase of \$3,902 from August 31, 2014. Income was \$9,871. Significant areas of income were the appeal, which grossed \$2,645; dues of \$2,625; and donations of \$3,638, of which \$2,000 was from the estate of Patricia Cousins Waters. Expenditures totaled \$5,969. The most significant expense were the printing and mailers of our new book, *Our Neighborhood—Manset and Seawall*, which totaled \$2,171. Other major expenses were rent of \$1,558 and the newsletter for \$1,028.

Respectfully submitted,
Bernie Mauger, Treasurer

PROJECT REPORTS

Publications. The Parker *Recollections of Southwest Harbor* has sold more copies. Inventory is now about 25 copies. The new *Our Neighborhood—Manset and Seawall* is being officially announced at this meeting. The 165-page book is the culmination of about eight years of effort on the part of a number of Society members and others in the area. Complete with numerous maps and photos, it covers all the buildings in this southern part of town. Each copy is accompanied by a disc version, enabling the reader to do name searches and to view many of the photographs in color. An initial run of 100 copies, priced at \$35, will be retailed at meetings of the Society and at several places in town. See Page 8 of this newsletter for detailed purchasing information.

Acquisitions. About 60 items have been added to the collections in 2014-15. Many are paper, that is articles, photos, and other ephemeral materials. The biggest gift was the 38-volume collection of ledgers from the H. R. Beal Company, a major record of an important corporation of Southwest Harbor. Old town ledgers have also been donated to us by the town. On the other end of the size spectrum is the small single sheet of paper selling the old Manset library in 1978. The fact that we have been cramming all of this in a tiny corner of the Chamber of Commerce room at Harbor House leads us to again ask for all ideas for a new home where there is much expanded office and new museum space.

Boston Post Cane. Mary O. Harkins, 96 years, received the town's Boston Post Cane as eldest citizen, June 10, 2015. See Page 6 of this newsletter for an expanded reporting of the presentation with a picture.

John Burnham, Archivist

The Southwest Harbor Historical Society is announcing the publication of a new book, *Our Neighborhood—Manset and Seawall*, featuring the homes and other buildings of the southern part of town, Manset and Seawall. In part it is an update of Nell Thornton's indispensable 1938 classic *Traditions and Records of Southwest Harbor and Somesville*. Without benefit of modern building numbering and the availability of computer-accessible data, the 1938 volume proved very hard to navigate. The new Society publication clearly lays out 365 buildings with comprehensive deed work. More than 125 fascinating historic and interesting current photos accompany text in this one-hundred-sixty page book. Eleven maps lay out this section of Southwest Harbor. The book is published in black and white, but included with each copy is a compact disc, which will let the user view about half the photos in their original color, as well as run searches by names and useful terms. For purchasing information see Page 8 of this newsletter.

BOSTON POST CANE PRESENTATION

By Becky and John Burnham



Mary Orcutt Harkins, 95 years young, was awarded the Boston Post Cane on the 10th of June as the eldest citizen of Southwest Harbor, just before her 96th birthday. Town Manager Don Lagrange and First Selectman Dan Norwood presented her with a lovely framed award certificate. Also present was her son John Harkins, and a grandson and his wife from Arlington, Texas. John and Becky Burnham represented the Southwest Harbor Historical Society. Elizabeth Orcutt Berry, Mary's mother, received the Boston Post Cane in the summer of 1996 when she was 98 years old, keeping it until she was 101.

Mary cared for many neighborhood children along with her own four children, John, Jr. (Mary), Judi H. Reynolds (Tracy), Kerry H. Dalton (Jim) and the late Bruce Harkins.

Mary was born in Brooksville and she and her husband John, who passed away in 2004, moved to Southwest Harebor in 1950. Now her family also consists of five grandchildren and two greatgrandchildren.



HORSE TROUGH UPDATE

The horse watering trough donated to the town by Gordon "Bunny" Roberts that we first featured in our February 2014 newsletter is again in our news. It used to sit at the intersection of Clark Point Road and Main Street back in the early 1900's. We have succeeded in having it installed on the front lawn of Harbor House next to the familiar school bell. The society is in the process of adding a descriptive plaque to the trough.

Because of comments and questions that we have received about dues payment, it seemed like a good idea also to print a list of those who have paid their dues for 2015.

Abbott, Alice	Acadia, Phyllis	Albers, Brenda
Allen, Leon & Patricia	Allen, Richard E.	Amendt, Alan
Amstutz, Barbara & Mark	Andrews, Alexandra	Antczak, Janice
Atlee, Dick & Corson, Sarah	Bartlett, Leonice	Beal, Harold & Marcia
Beal, Ken & Helen	Beal, Mary	Benedetti, Patricia
Benson, David & Anne	Birlem, Lynne	Bradford, Rusty & Lynne
Braun, Duane & Ruth	Brookes, Ken & Ellen	Buell, Susan & John
Burnham, Becky & John	Bush, Natalie Spahr	Butler, Ned & Liza
Cafe Drydock	Campbell, Barbara & Mark	Cant, Cynthia
Carlson, Rebecca	Carr, Agnes Dolliver	Carroll Drug Store
Carroll, William	Clark, Jennifer	Clarke, Allisone & Wyndham
Clement, Polly	Cline, Andy	Closson, Donna
Cole, Lawrence	Colquhoun, Leza	Craig, Karen
Cwik, Pepper & David	Davis, Bob	Deafenbaugh, Charles & Paul
Delehanty, Margaret	Diaz, Hector	Diehl, Pamela & Doug
Dimond, Richard	Dolliver, Peter	Dunham, Jr., Wolcott & Joan
Erhart, Sylvia	Eagan, Ann P.	Ervin, Spencer & Florence
Evans, Ken & Mary	Falcichio, Eleanor	Fleming, Jan
Flynn, Janis	Freundlich, Jill	Fuerst, Joanne & Richard
Gibbons, Jack & Maggie	Gilley, Jack & Marguerite	Gilley Jr., Dr. Philip F. M.
Gilley, Wayne	Goldthwait, Sheldon	Gott, Stan & Sandra
Gray, Kenneth	Harrison, Alexandra	Hays, Susan Pope
Henry, Eric & Kate	Herrick, Steve	Hipkens, Mr. & Mrs. Robert
Holtzman, Betsey	Hutchins, Kelli & Chip	Hutchins, Ken & Meredith
Hutchins, Kristin	Jellison, Jr., George	Jellison, Sr., George
Jellison, Ruth	Johnson, Charles & Frances	Kelley, John & Margaret
Kenney, Felton	Kenney, Jane	Klausky, Grace
Knickerbocker, Carol & Ripley	Krueger, William & Diane	Lewis, Patricia
Lidstrom, Carol F.	Ludwig, Helen	Madara, Jr., Ed & Rosalinda
Marshall, Maurice Joseph	Mayerhofer, Joy	Mauger, Bernie & Marie
McGowan, Anne	McIlvane, Brooke & Charles	Merriam, Stephen
Michaud, Al & Donna	Miller III, Philippus	Mitchell, Patrick & Ellen
Morneault, Jr., Loman J.	Newman, Susan & Jarvis	O'Leary, Ed & Chris
Oxman, Jeffrey	Peterson, William & Jennifer	Pinkham, Diana
Pinkham, Patty	Ponczek, Henryetta	Potter, John
Quackenbush, Wini & Fred	Raup, Henry A.	Rawls, Christopher & Elizabeth Halpern
Reed, Beth	Reed, David & Janice	Riemer, Louise
Rising, Niel	Robbins, Eleanor	Roberts, Gordon & Janice
Robinson Insurance	Rogers, Loretta	Rudolph, Ingrid
Seavey, Erland	Speakman, Cummins & Diane	Spurling, Elaine & Harley
Stanley, Stephen	Stanwood, Edie	Stehman, Fran
Sterba, Jeff & Janet	Storey, Doug & Kim	Strong, Janet & Robert Hoyt
Sundberg, John & Beth	Terry, Joan & Wilbert	Thurnau, Kathleen
Thurston, Eugene	Tidal Graphics/Peter Homer	Towers, Laurie & Fred
Vekasi, Jim & Mary	Vogel, Paula & Howard	Waldron, Ann
Walls, Gene & Peggy	Walton, Kathe	Wass, Leighton
Waters, Jennifer N. & Todd D. Peterson	White, Paul	Whitney, Phil & Karin
Wilbur, Lee	Wilder, Nancy	Willey, Jim & Cathy
Williams, Aimee	Worcester, Dorothy & Warren	Worcester, Mark
Wozniak, Keith & Mary	Young, Jacqueline	Young, Jason

ITEMS FOR SALE

BOOKS

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

Please add \$3 for shipping.

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD—MANSET AND SEAWALL. 2015. 160 pages with compact disc. 8 1/2" x 11". Features 365 buildings with comprehensive deed work; 125 photos. This book is also for sale at our monthly presentations, at Davis Realty Agency, Carroll Drugs, and at Sawyer's Market.

Members \$33

Non-members \$35

Please add \$4 for shipping.

DVD'S

The DVD's are recordings of some of our summer programs. We now have seven 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

The WWII K-14 Blimp Mystery; Earl Brechlin, Speaker

The Steamboat Era of Southwest Harbor; Ralph Stanley & Phil Whitney, Speakers

Members \$11

Non-members \$12

Please add \$3 for shipping.

Orders for any of the above items should be sent to Southwest Harbor Historical Society, P. O. Box 272, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

There is still time to send in your dues for the 2015 membership year. **On Page 7 of this newsletter we have published a list of those who have paid their dues. In addition, the date above your name on the address page shows when your membership is up.** 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.**