

The Sou'west Voyage

Norwood Cove

Greening Island

Southwest Harbor

Manset

Seawall

Published three times yearly: February, June, and November

NOVEMBER 2018



On Monday, July 23, the Southwest Harbor Historical Society signed the papers which would give it the Manset Union Church as its museum and headquarters as well as a well-loved community institution worthy of saving. Since that day both the society and the community have been hard at work in a labor of love.

The history of the church actually began 226 years ago, **1792**, when 15 people formed the first religious congregational organization, the congregational church of Mount Desert. At that time the whole island was included within the church's jurisdiction: James Richardson, Thomas Richardson, Davis Wasgatt, Nathaniel Gott, Ezra H. Dodge, Paul D. Sargent, Daniel Richardson, Rachel Richardson, Rachel Wasgatt, Mary Dodge, Hannah Gott, Elizabeth Gott, Margaret Richardson, Ruth Norwood, and Nancy Atherton.. Visiting preachers held services in people's homes, and in **1793** the town voted to send for a probationary minister. It was one of these visiting preachers, an ordained minister, who formally declared the group a church. A newly adopted covenant was signed by all wishing to join.

By **1800** the need for an actual building was recognized. Construction of the building started on the old Bass Harbor Road (the County Lane today), just south of the present location. When the route of the road changed, the building was taken apart and its lumber reused to construct the present building. The land was deeded from Nicholas Tucker, whose grave is located in the cemetery directly behind the church.

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Hello and best wishes to all who are reading this newsletter! You are joining us in sharing, learning, and enjoying the history of Southwest Harbor. I was elected to the position of president in September, and am expecting a busy, challenging, and enjoyable year ahead! Thank you to Karen Craig for her time before me to keep this group active and successful!

I grew up in Manset, and spent a lot of time exploring old paths and roads, cemeteries and cellar holes, apple trees and lilac bushes. My family (Stanleys, Pinkhams, etc.) were great storytellers, and that, along with colorful neighbors and great friends, meant that I grew up with wonderful memories and a strong sense of place. Safekeeping the history of this special place and sharing it with others is why I joined this historical society several years ago. I do enjoy spending time with old photos, journals, and memorabilia.

The past summer was not a quiet one for this historical society. After so many years of wishing for a location where we could display more, share more, achieve more, that became a reality after some quick actions and fund raising. We are so proud of our new home at the former Manset Union Church, and are so grateful for the donations from supporters.

We have many goals for our new home, to include, most importantly:

Open the sanctuary area as our museum/exhibit space next summer. We would continue our summer programs in this area also.

Use the Gleaners Hall area as a safe storage of our archives, as an efficient space for work sessions of members and volunteers, and as a space for small group meetings or events.

To accomplish our goals, we have recently formed a Building Committee. We have never needed one of these before, but now there are many jobs. We have a steeple that needs straightening along with a bell that needs to be ringing. We have stained glass windows that need restoration, and several areas of the original church that need renovation and repair. We have technology needs, landscaping needs, painting needs, and more. We are planning weekly work sessions to tackle projects this winter and spring. Please consider joining us. We need your help, whether it be construction work, painting, scanning archival pieces, or transcribing old books! Training and good company will be provided! Our open board meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month at 1 PM and we welcome you.

We have expanded our Collections Committee. They will continue to catalog and care for our growing collection of archival items, along with designing museum displays, training tour guides, and scanning our entire collection into our digital archives.

We have recently kicked off a fund raising campaign to preserve the Manset Union Church and establish a home for the Southwest Harbor Historical Society. Please consider a donation. More to come on this endeavor!

We have a lot to accomplish in the year ahead, and what a joy it will be—a place to call home for the history of Southwest Harbor!

Patty Pinkham, Southwest Harbor Historical Society
(207)244-7264 southwestharborhistorical@gmail.com

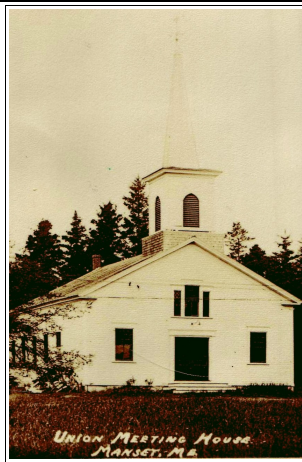
IN MEMORY OF. Contributions have been made to the society in memory of

Edna Jellison & George Jellison, Sr. by Brenda & Bruce Albers
Oscar, Inez, Emery Krantz by Charles & Frances Johnson
Betty Rice King, George Jellison, Bill Carroll by Alan & Tucker Spurling
Elizabeth King by Lynne Birlem
Edna Jellison by Alice Abbott

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

Albers, Brenda & Bruce	Kenney, Felton & Peggy	Robbins, Eleanor
Burnham, Becky & John	LaCount, Elsie V.	Roberge, Korel & William
Carlson, Becky	Mauger, Bernie & Marie	Saucier, Jennifer Bradford
Craig, Karen	Michaud, Donna & Al	Soules, George
Dunbar, Guy & Paula	Pinkham, Patty	Walton, Kathe
Kelley, Elwood	Ponczek, Henryetta	

Cont'd from Page 1



At this time the place was called the Southern Meetinghouse to differentiate it from a second meetinghouse being built at Pretty Marsh. With a home for the congregation it made sense to hire a full-time minister, Ebenezer Eaton, in 1801.

1820's. The church was in the process of being completed but was used during the summers. It wasn't completed until 1828. Money for construction came from the sale of pews and the town. Settlers donated labor and materials.

But a building doesn't stay the same for 190 years.

1848. Unspecified repairs in the amount of \$100.13 were paid for by pew owners.

1850's. In 1853 the first women's society on MDI was organized, the Mutual Improvement & Benevolent Society (MIBS). It proved to be important to the future of the church. Sometime during the 1850's stoves were installed, the building

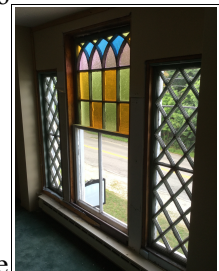
apparently having been unheated for at least 20 years.



1860's. Additional repairs, renovation, and installations were made. In 1862 repairs in the amount of \$400 were once again paid for by the pew owners. In 1866-67 a bell was installed in the steeple, paid for by the MIBS (\$193.42). From 1860-1870 several renovations were made including installing a central front door to replace the original two side doors.

1880's. A period of extensive repairs and changes: Queen Anne stained glass windows, tin wall sheathing, substitution of a modern

pulpit set, tripartite window in the second story, sashes in the other windows changed to two-over-two lights.



1919-1922. The church steeple needed repairing and was taken up by the Village Improvement Association (VIA). It was finally repaired by R. Hanson for \$76.15, which the VIA paid.



1930's. In 1930 the Manset congregation joined the larger area parish consisting of the Southwest Harbor Congregational Church, Tremont, McKinley, West Tremont, Seal Cove, and Hall Quarry. What this meant for the operation of the church is not clear. In 1937 a disaster befell the Gleaners Hall and by extension, the church. On November 10 the newly-built Gleaners Hall (also called the parish building) burned down. Since it was close to the north side of the church and behind the library, both of those buildings were also damaged. It is probably no coincidence that that year a rededication service was held after its interior decoration. A new Gleaners Hall was immediately rebuilt.

1940's. In 1941 the church was called the Manset Baptist Church (MBC) and public meetinghouse. Several years later (1948) MBC and the Southwest Harbor Congregational Church (SWHCC) withdrew from the larger parish and created a joint ministry.

1950's. The MBC and SWHCC shared educational and fellowship programs in 1951. By 1954 the Manset church organized and formally changed their name to Manset Union Church since it was being used by more than one denomination. They also joined the Hancock County Association of Congregational Christian Churches. In 1956 a furnace was installed and the pew doors removed. Apparently the doors were reused in finishing someone's kitchen. In 1957 "Manset Union Church" was legally incorporated with by-laws.

(Cont'd on Page 4)



The only major change to the church building came in **2007** when it acquired the Gleaners Hall from the Southwest Harbor Fire Association and moved it from its lot (184 Seawall Road) to be joined to the side of the church. Sometime before the Rock Church took possession in **2015** a \$100,000 endowment was used to make capital improvements such as mold removal and a new foundation and heating system.

2015-2018. A less physical change came in 2015 when the name changed to the Rock Church, a Bangor-based church. There were interior changes which included removing the pews, installing more comfortable seating, offering more contemporary Christian music, new paint, and putting in a sound and video system.

2018. After acquiring the church in July, the Southwest Harbor Historical Society's board of directors decided to launch a campaign to finish renovations to the church and make it a useful and usable space for archival work, historical displays, educational talks and community gatherings. We have just begun to go out into the community to ask for contributions and hope that we will be met with generosity to protect this important building.

Information herein is taken predominantly from Nell Thornton's book, *Traditions and Records: Southwest Harbor and Somesville, Mount Desert Island, Maine*, 1938; photos and supplementary information are from the society's archives.

And Now For Something Completely Different

In our last newsletter, June 2018, an article about the Appalachian Mountain camp at Echo Lake prompted this recollection from Lynne Birlem. "My family rented the Stanwood King camp (now demolished) on Ike's Point on Echo Lake (1946-1950) when my folks bought the island in the lake (1950-1957). I have fond memories of the canoes and the evening campfire songs wafting up the lake. In 1944 my folks bought the house at 53 Clark Point Road and ran it as a 'tourist home'...beds, no board. The directors of the AP camp stayed with us a week, spring and fall, while opening and closing the camp. Their names were George M. and Lou York from Cazenovia, NY; later their son Oliver Morell York "Duke" and his wife Ruth managed the camp, still later Suzanne Beal Madeira and her husband Pete did likewise."

Lynne also takes issue with Mrs. Seth Thornton's description that the "Mount Desert Island Camp was built in 1934 for the use of the inhabitants of Mount Desert Island as a social meeting place," which when you think about it, doesn't make sense. The Appalachian Mountain Camp was frequented by out-of-towners. Lynne thinks that Thornton's camp "was actually a separate entity built catty-corner across the lake from the AP camp, above Echo Lake Beach just before the Ladder Trail which starts up Beech Cliff. In 1947 at the age of 7, and a new Brownie, I spent a week campine there with the Girl Scouts at a camp organized and directed by Lucile Harris (Mrs. Abe Harris) utilizing about 3 tents and that log lodge which had kitchen facilities and a huge stone fireplace and a flag pole. As I remember, the locals sometimes threw parties there and the Pemetic outing club did likewise."



As we get older we tend to have a deeper appreciation for the so-called “smaller things in life,” and that is the case with “White’s Court” in SWH.

It was the NCAA basketball tournament in March of this year (2018) that triggered my memory of playing basketball outdoorssome 60 plus years ago. And those memories were fortified with the passing of classmate, Bill Carroll. So, I got on the computer and emailed a classmate, Steve Herrick, to find out what he could remember about those halcyon days. We combined our recollections as best we could and came up with the following memories of White’s Court. [*“White’s Court” then the home of Russell and Mary White at 57 Clark Pt. Rd. seen at left as it looks today. You can see a bit of the barn behind the house.*]

Pemetic High School (and even SWH High of many years before) had a history of great basketball teams, and so there was a reputation to uphold! Basketball practices at school were just not enough for some of us, but where to play when the school was closed? The answer was White’s Court, next to Russell White’s home on Main St. There was a barn behind his house that had a paved driveway and a basketball hoop. We are not sure of its exact origin (maybe a reader knows), but Jack Gilley told Steve that he left SWH in 1953 and doesn’t remember it before that time.

Steve Herrick’s brother, Dick, once said he recalled playing there around 1953 with some “old timers” like Jerry Craig, Morgan Grindle and “Toots” Sullivan, as well as others. So that very well may be the year of the origin of White’s Court.

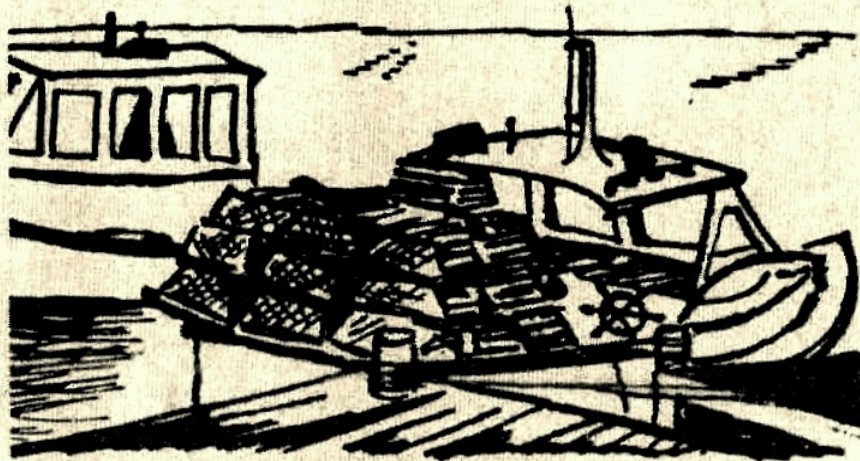
I’m not sure when members of my class started to use White’s Court regularly, but I’m guessing it was prior to our first year in high school, 1956. Who were the regulars? From my class of 1960 there was Bill Carroll, Steven Herrick, Reynold “Bouncy” Smith, Donald Jumper and myself. On occasion I recall playing against some upper classmen like David and Jim Carroll and Neil Robinson. Any others out there who were regulars?

We played basketball in all kinds of weather, even with snowbanks and ice around. Spring seemed to be a popular time, I suppose because of the basketball tournaments earlier in February and not much else to do. With puddles here and there, the basketball was always wet and dirty, and that produced cracks on our fingertips like you wouldn’t believe. But we loved it. The nets became ragged from overuse and wet basketballs, but a new one often appeared overnight to our surprise the next day. I imagine Russell could see the value to us town boys and would replace it without saying a word.

It was a true gift to have a spot like that, and I’m afraid I don’t ever remember thanking the Whites for its use. But being a tad older these days I can see how important White’s Court was to a few teenage boys. I don’t recall any girls playing, but maybe some readers can set me straight on that! Steve said he remembers Russell’s daughter, Patty, and a neighbor, Lynn Birlem, sitting on the steps and watching us boys play from time to time. [Lynne lived in what was the Yellow Aster B&B after her time there, which is next door to the Whites’ house.

When did White’s Court come to an end? That’s another fuzzy memory, but maybe around 1957. I have a feeling that girls became a bit more of interest at that time.

Since the time that Leighton wrote this article, things have happened that elicited another note from him. “...that article becomes even more appropriate with the passing of two of the Carrolls who used to play there since I wrote it: Bill Carroll, my classmate, who passed away early this last February and Jim Carroll, Bill’s cousin, and my friend, who just passed away a few days ago....I wish they had had a chance to read it.”



News of Southwest Harbor

Mrs. Charles Bennett — Telephone 244-3333

There will be a dance for junior high school age children at Harbor House Friday night. On Saturday morning a cartoon show featuring Frosty, Santa and other Christmas characters will be held for the children.

Mrs. Annie Ingalls, former resident of Tremont, is now a patient at Rome City Hospital, Room 323, Rome, N.Y. and would enjoy cards from her old friends.

Sunday school children from Southwest Harbor and Manset attended the annual Christmas

party held in the vesty of the Mount Desert Congregational Church on a recent Saturday afternoon. The children sang carols and had a Christmas tree with Santa in charge. The afternoon ended with refreshments for all. The assistance of Mrs. Roscoe Marshall and John Madeira, of the U.S. Coast Guard Base, was greatly appreciated.

Maurice Norwood and Welch Forbis attended the Internal Affairs Committee meeting of the American Legion in

Waterville recently.

The Gleaners held their annual Christmas party at the home of Mrs. Stanwood King. President Noyes officiated at the Christmas tree. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Richard Bulger and Mrs. Jack Gilley. The annual meeting will be held January 7 at the home of Mrs. Charles Bennett. Officers will be elected at that time and secret pal names revealed and new names drawn. The nominating committee appointed by president Noyes is Mrs. Stanwood King, Mrs. Edwin Reed, and Mrs. Charles Bennett.

Merry Christmas to the staff at the Times Office, friends on the island, and summer friends who are wintering elsewhere.

LEE FREEDMAN
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Sundays and eves. by appointment 244-3162



Manset News

BESSIE M. NOYES
Tel. 244-3035

Mrs. Eldene Farrar has returned from Portland and Gray where she has been visiting the past month.

Mrs. John Noyes left Saturday for Portland to spend Christmas and visit her son and family. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Noyes and Louie.

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Hitchcock of Orrington spent Sunday with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hitchcock and Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Stanley.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Michaud left Wednesday for Randolph to spend Christmas with their son and family. Mr. and Mrs. Al Michaud and four sons.

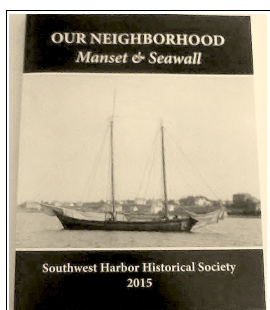
Bonnie Noyes of the Victor Secretarial School in Portland arrived Friday to spend Christmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Noyes, and brother, Clifford.

CARD OF APPRECIATION

The Southwest Harbor-Tremont Nursing Service, Inc. wishes to extend Holiday Greetings to all and to express their appreciation for the services of drivers and helpers who have donated their time without compensation, namely, Frank Elliott, Corky Elliott, Jarvis Newman, Eugene Robbins, Stephen Robbins, Randy Sawyer, Harvey Sawyer Jr., Joe Simmons, Harvard Vine, Leslie White, Jr. and Mr. Bosco. Thanks are also extended to the many interested friends who contributed funds to the

Your membership expiration date is listed above your name on the blue address page. If you have paid for 2018, your name will also appear on this list.

Abbot, Alice	Falcichio, Eleanor	Pinkham, Patty
Acadia, Phyllis	Fleming, Jan	Ponczek, Henryetta
Albers, Brenda & Bruce	Fuerst, Joanne & Richard	Potter, John
Allen, Leon, Jr. & Patricia	Gibbons, Jack	Raup, Henry A.
Allen, Richard	Gilley, Jack	Reed, Beth & Steven Dolliver
Amendt, Alan R. & Diane	Gilley, Jr., Dr. Philip F. M.	Reed, David & Janice
Amstutz, Barbara & Mark	Gilley, Wayne & Mary	Riemer, Louise
Andrews, Alexandra & Dave	Goldthwaite, Sheldon	Robbins, Eleanor
Atlee, Dick & Sarah Corson	Gott, Sandra & Stan	Roberge, Korel & William
Beal, Harold & Marcia	Hays, Susan Pope	Roberts, Gordon & Janice
Beal, Mary	Herrick, Steve	Rogers, Loretta
Benedetti, Patricia	Hipkens, Mr. & Mrs. Robert	Saucier, Jennifer
Benson, David & Anne	Holtzman, Betsey	Seavey, Erland
Bickford, Trudy	Homer, Peter & Linda	Soules, George
Birlem, Lynne	Jellison, Jr., George	Speakman, Cummins & Diane
Booher, Jennifer	Johnson, Charles & Frances	Spurling, Elaine & Harley
Bradford, Rusty & Lynne	Judd, Lee	Stanhope, Charles
Braun, Duane & Ruth	Kelley, John & Margaret	Storey, Doug & Kim
Brookes, Ken & Ellen	Kenney, Felton	Strasbaugh, Wayne
Buell, Susan & John	Kenney, Jane	Strong, Janet & Robert Hoyt
Burnham, Becky & John	Klausky, Grace	Sundberg, John & Beth
Bush, Natalie Spahr	Krueger, William & Diane	Terry, Joan & Wilbert
Butler, Ned & Liza	Lawrence, Sam	Towers, Laurel & Fred
Carlson, Rebecca	Ludwig, Helen	Walls, Gene & Peggy
Carr, Agnes Dolliver	Madara, Jr., Ed & Rosalinda	Waldron, Ann
Carroll, William	Marshall, Maurice Joseph	Walton, Kathe
Clarke, Allisone & Wyndham	Mayerhofer, Joy & Bert	Wass, Leighton
Clement, Polly	Mauger, Bernie & Marie	Waters, Jennifer N. & Todd
Cline, Andy	Michaud, Al & Donna	Peterson
Colquhoun, Leza	Miller III, Philippus	Willey, Jim & Cathy
Craig, Karen	Mills, Dalen & Liz	Williams, Aimee
Davis, Bob	Mitchell, Patrick & Ellen	Worcester, Mark
Deafenbaugh, Charles & Paula	Newman, Susan & Jarvis	Worcester, Warren
Diehl, Pamela & Doug	Norberg, Robert & Katrina	Wozniak, Keith & Mary
Dimond, Richard	Olgyay, Cora & Alan	Young, Jacqueline
Eagan, Ann P.	Rosenquist	Young, Jason
Evans, Ken & Mary	Oxman, Jeffrey	

ITEMS FOR SALE
BOOK

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 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.**

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, Wayne Gilley, Bernie Mauger, Al Michaud, Donna Michaud, Beth Reed, Ralph Stanley, Rich Viera, Kathe Walton, Leslie Watson..

*Our headquarters have moved to our recently purchased Manset Union Church at 192 Seawall Road in Manset. Visit our web site, **SWHHS.org**, for more information.*