



As this difficult year draws to a close, I am hopeful for a healthy 2021. While it was a disappointment that we were not able to present programs this past summer, the board has continued to work and plan for the future of the Southwest Harbor Historical Society.

We have been working with a museum consultant and made several decisions towards transforming the former sanctuary into a museum. A hanging system for exhibiting our maps, charts, posters, and artwork will be purchased and installed by Spring. A future project is developing a secured area in the Gleaners Hall for the storage of our artifacts. This secured area will allow outside groups to use the Gleaners Hall for meetings while ensuring the security of our collection.

We will be forming a Steeple Committee to work towards getting the project of repairing our leaning steeple moving forward.

As of our annual meeting in September, I am welcoming four new board members—Beth Gaiser, Anne Welles, Gary Blanchette, and Susan Buell. They are bringing valuable enthusiasm and knowledge to our board.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of the community and our members as we continue transforming the Manset Meetinghouse into a museum.

Aimee Williams, Southwest Harbor Historical Society  
207-244-7735 [aimeewilliams363@gmail.com](mailto:aimeewilliams363@gmail.com)

---

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

Paul Williams by Joan & Wilbert Terry and by the Maine Public Employees Local 1458

Louisa F. Gross by Robert & Karen Gross

Von, Hope, Charles, and Owen Bradford by Rusty & Lynne Bradford

Harold Beal by Grace Bernice Klausky

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

Cheryl & Chuck Bowers  
Ken & Ellen Brookes  
Bruce & Rebecca Carlson  
Heidi Crock  
Richard C. Dimond  
Dysart's Service  
Merilyn Farley  
Rick & Joanne Fuerst  
Jack Gilley

Peter & Elisabeth Glass  
Great Cranberry Island Hist. Soc.  
Edward & Rosalinda Madara  
Mt. Height Cemetery Asso.  
Cynthia & Robert Robertson  
Skip's Automotive Services  
Laurie H. Towers

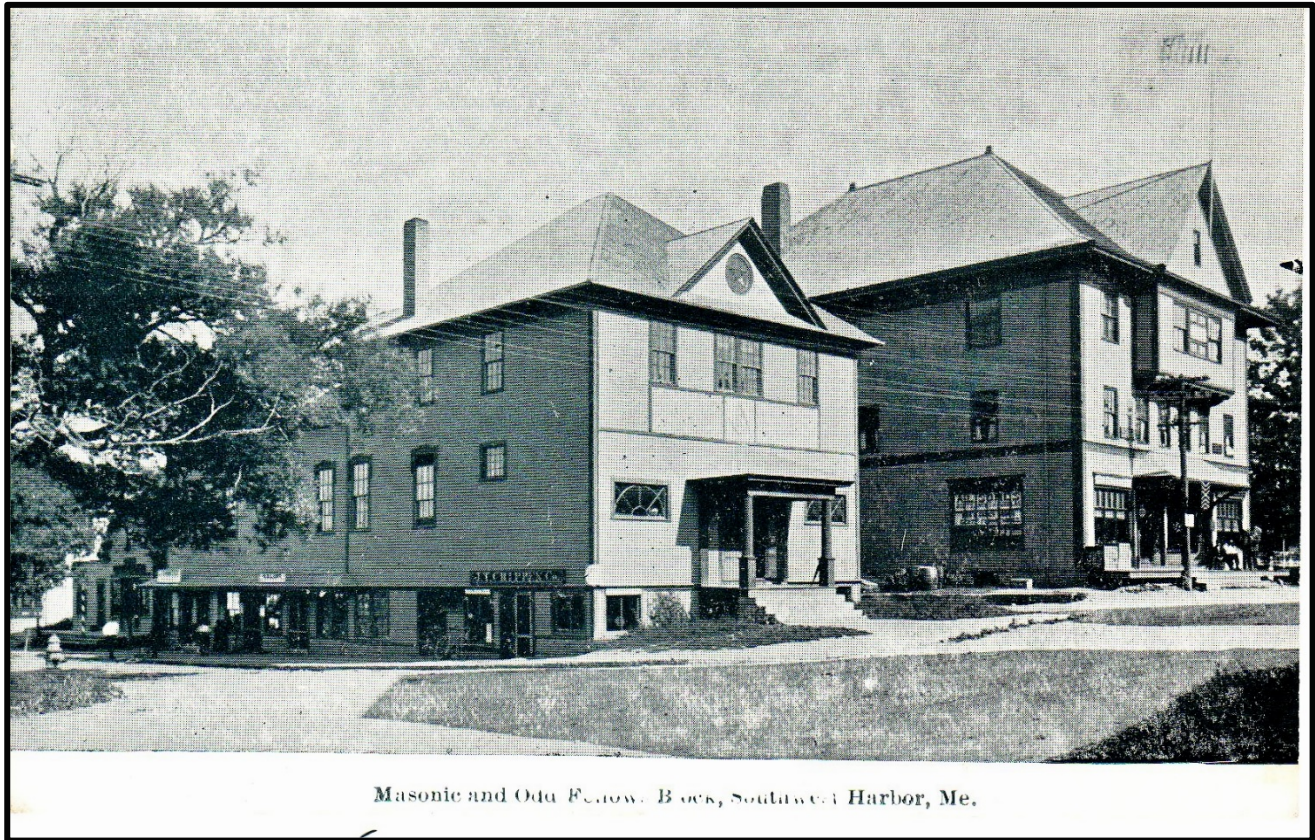
On March 27, 1922 a fire that started in the A. I Holmes store across Main Street from the Odd Fellows building levelled both buildings, along with much of the business district. The Odd Fellows building was a three-story building. On the ground floor was the dry goods and boot and shoe store of **Arthur Somes** on the north side; on the south side was the cigar store and pool room of **Raymond Somes**. On the second floor were the offices of the telephone company; the operating room and the offices of **Dr. P. F. M. Gilley**, dentist; the **United States customs office**; the **offices of the selectmen**; the **office of the superintendent of schools**; the law offices of **George R. Fuller**; the jewelry shop of **Eugene Thurston**. The third floor was used by the **Odd Fellows** for their **lodge room** and other quarters. The fire in the Holmes store was discovered at about 3:30 in the morning by Richard and Charles Carroll who roused the town. Losses were estimated at \$100,000 to \$150,000.



*(Photo from the Southwest Harbor Historical Society files)*

Plans for rebuilding the Odd Fellows building were being made the evening of the fire. Within a few days businesses were up and running in temporary quarters. Arthur Somes leased the building on Clark Point Road belonging to Leon Higgins and put in the stock of goods that was ordered and on the way. He later returned to the Odd Fellows building. Dr. Gilley set up his dental office at his home until he could find other quarters. The telephone company rented Isaac Stanley's store next to the library. Superintendent of schools W. E. Clark moved to the typewriting room at the high school. A newspaper reported that Clark had been able to save "about all the town property and school records that were in his office" "with the aid of the school boys and girls." Eugene Thurston's personal loss was about \$600 in his jewelry store. He saved most of the clocks which he was keeping for the summer residents and all the watches which were with him for repairs. He did not reopen the business. The town offices returned and stayed there until 1982.





*(Photo from the Southwest Harbor Historical Society files)*

The new Odd Fellows hall was built in 1923. In the above photo the Masonic building on the left is today's Sawyer's Specialties; the Odd Fellows' building on the right is today's Dry Dock restaurant. Both have obviously had alterations after each burned in its own devastating fire. In a perverse way, if it weren't for the fire of 1922, we wouldn't have this detailed information about the use of the Odd Fellows building, since most of the information comes from newspaper articles of the fire.

Obviously there were other occupants of the building both before and after the 1922 fire. In a picture dated 1906, F. J. Higgins sold groceries, flour, and grain, along with paints, oils, and varnishes; Seth Norwood had his law office on the second floor. George Grant sold insurance from the second floor at some earlier time. The telephone exchange was housed there from 1908 and was still there in 1922.

In later years, from 1927 to 1939, Soly Caruso operated a barber shop and beauty salon in the building. Circa the 1950's there was a dance studio offering ballet and tap lessons to local children, taught by Mrs. Gloria Kenney and/or Mrs. Fortenberry. Dr. Carl Kelley, an optometrist, and lawyer George Lariat had offices on the second floor. For several years on the ground floor at the back of the building school children had lunch. Vine's Radio Electric Co. opened their store in the south portion of the ground floor, while Raymond "Pete" Somes continued the tradition of Arthur Somes selling men's and boys' furnishings.

*(Thanks to Leighton Wass for suggesting this topic.)*



## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

By Henryetta Ponczek

## The Sou'west Voyage Nov 2020 Page 5



This Moxie bottle was given to our historical society by John Clark. It was used by Les Morrill as a pot line float. It has a wood stopper.

Moxie was created around 1876 by Augustin Thompson, born in Union, Maine, as a patent medicine called “Moxie Nerve Food.” He claimed that it was effective against “paralysis, softening of the brain, nervousness, and insomnia.” The name likely derives from an Abenaki word that means “dark water” and that is found in lake and river names in Maine. After a few years Thompson added soda water to the formula and changed the product’s name to “Beverage Moxie Nerve Food.” It was among the first mass-produced soft drinks in the United States. It was produced in Lowell, Massachusetts. Its flavor is sweet, with a

bitter aftertaste. It was designated the official soft drink of Maine on May 10, 2005 and continues to be regionally popular, particularly in New England and Pennsylvania. *(Info taken from Wikipedia.)*



Betty Stanley Wheaton has given us her work shirt from the Gordon & White Garage.

The garage started out in 1928 as the repair shop of Howard Robinson. He sold it to Earl Gordon and Leslie White in 1928, who enlarged the place. They made it an ESSO station and sold Fords, Mercurys, and Kiekhaefer Mercury outboard motors. The gas pumps were removed in 1985 by the new owner Tom Landers, who renamed the business Landers Ford. Today you can see the

design of the building in Eat-A-Pita restaurant, Under the Dogwood Tree, and the art gallery which occupy the site.



This TV was given to the historical society by Phil Whitney, fittingly enough since Whitney Electric was a long-time business (1935) in Southwest Harbor. First at 40 Clark Point Road, after some moves they settled on Main Street where First Bank is located. This RCA Victor is a 1951 model, black and white, with a 14” screen (!). According to Phil’s parents it was the first known television in the MDI area. In the late 1950’s Mr. Whitney “opened up the television showroom for people to drop in

and watch new color television shows such as *Bonanza* and the World Series games. The store was often crowded with people, who subsequently bought televisions.”

*(Photos of bygone days are from the Southwest Harbor Historical Society files.)*



By Henryetta Ponczek



November 26 is Thanksgiving Day. Thanks to the Pilgrims for arriving here 400 years ago so that we can give thanks, eat, sleep, and watch football games. A replica of the *Mayflower*, the 64-year-old *Mayflower II*, returned to Plymouth, Massachusetts in August, after a three-year, multi-million-dollar renovation. As a result, 75% of the vessel is new. It was given to the US by England in 1957 and is open to the public as an exhibit at Plimoth Plantation.

In an article in the 2006-2007 issue of *Chebacco*, the MDI Historical Society journal, Ralph Stanley notes, “Few are aware that Mount Desert Island is home to so many families of *Mayflower* descent...Of the twenty-nine students in my graduating class at Pemetic High School in 1948, ten had ancestors who came to America on the *Mayflower*.” (p. 87) The following seven early colonists have descendants living on MDI: William Brewster, Thomas Rogers, Francis Cooke, John Tilley, John Howland, Stephen Hopkins, and William White. Some familiar Southwest Harbor family names descended from these seven are Carroll, Clark, Dolliver, Freeman, Getchell, Gilley, Higgins, Holmes, Newman, Rice, Somes, Spurling, Stanley, White. For a more detailed list of names, see the *Chebacco* article. There is also the General Society of Mayflower Descendants based in Plymouth, Massachusetts, which operates a genealogy research library and publishes a series of genealogy books that follow the descendants of the *Mayflower* passengers. (*Thanks to Grace Klausky for suggesting this topic.*)

## A Taste of Old

Former board member Lynne Birem’s interest in food and history is reflected in the following recipe she has sent us. “I sent the recipe originally because it seemed not to be known by many of my contemporaries and those younger. Hake used to be rife in the local waters and somewhat considered a trash fish, but loved by those who knew to cook it this way. My friends Dave and Jan Leonard Reed call it “*Down East Soul Food.*” Nancy Dunbar Bulger used to serve it in her restaurant and run out before closing time. Gott’s store sometimes has it on their menu. It is still carried by Hannaford’s sometimes.” Al Michaud, another board member, contributed that in some regions corned hake was called Grand Manan turkey. Brandon and Laura’s restaurant on Seal Cove Road sometimes served corned hake



### Corned Hake

Buy as thick **fillets of hake** as possible. Cover both sides generously (1/8”) with **kosher salt**, more if eating within 3 hours. Place in covered bowl in refrigerator.

**Salt pork**, 1/4” cubed. Fry over **low** heat until brown. Will take nearly 45 minutes.

Dice **large onion** into a bowl, nearly cover with **cider vinegar**. Add water to cover. **Pepper**. Let sit about an hour+.

Peel 1-2 **potatoes** per person. Almost cover with water, cover and bring to boil. Top with rinsed fish. Cook until potatoes are done and fish flakes.

Serve fish and potatoes on rimmed platter. Each person mashes potato and fish together, tops with pork scraps, fat and pickled onion. Left-overs make a great hash topped with poached egg.

*(Photos on this page are from generic googled websites.)*

## **The Southwest Harbor Historical Society Annual Meeting**

**Page 7**

Wednesday, September 23, 2020 6:00 pm at the Manset Union Meetinghouse  
192 Seawall Road, Southwest Harbor, Maine

Current Board Members present: Julie Fernald, John Burnham, Henryetta Ponczek, Patty Pinkham, Al Michaud, Aimee Williams, Kathe Walton, and Bernice Klausky. Absent with excuses were Lynne Birlem and Leslie Watson. Rich Viera was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 6 o'clock pm by President Aimee.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of 2019 were reviewed. Julie moved the minutes be accepted as printed. Motion seconded and passed.

Treasurer's report was reviewed. Budget for the coming year was attached. Kathe called for the budget to be approved and the treasurer's report to be placed on file. The motion was seconded and passed.

Julie made the motion to accept the membership fee at 15 dollars per person as it has been. A second was heard. Motion passed.

Election of Board Members. Julie presented the slate as proposed by the nominating committee to be voted on for a three year term. Names offered were Susan Buell, Beth Gaiser, Anne Welles, and Garry Blanchette. Call for nominations from the floor. None offered. Al moved we accept the proposed names as new members to the board. Seconded and passed.

Election of Officers for the coming year:

President: Aimee Williams

Vice Pres.: Leslie Watson

Treasurer: Patty Pinkham

Secretary: Beth Gaiser

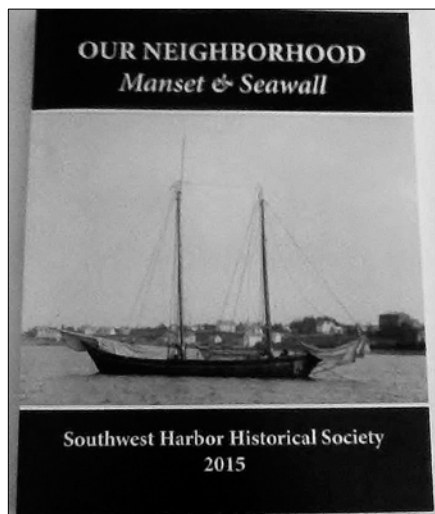
Al moved we accept the slate of officers as presented. Motion seconded and passed.

Henryetta called for adjournment. Seconded and passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Submitted by:

Bernice Klausky, Sect. Pro Temp



**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 for sale at our presentations and on our website, **SWHHS.org**, where there is an order form.

Members \$33

Non-members \$35

Please add \$4 for shipping.

Orders for the book 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

All memberships shall be valid for the calendar year in which they are received. **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](http://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, 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.

**Southwest Harbor Historical Society Officers:** Aimee Williams, Pres.; Leslie Watson, VP; Patty Pinkham, Treas.; **Board Members:** Garry Blanchette, Susan Covino Buell, Julie Fernald, Beth Gaiser, G. Bernice Klausky, Al Michaud, Henryetta Ponczek, Ralph Stanley, Rich Viera, Anne Welles.



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](http://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](http://mainevacationrentalproperties.com)



314 Main Street, Southwest Harbor  
[www.bhbt.com](http://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](mailto:gray5127@roadrunner.com)

# Gott's Store

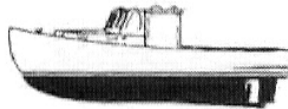
**Grocery & Take Out**

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](mailto:info@jarvisnewman.us)  
[www.jarvisnewman.us](http://www.jarvisnewman.us)

Jarvis Newman, Broker  
Kathe N. Walton, Broker



(207) 244-1233  
[QuiltFabric@gmail.com](mailto:QuiltFabric@gmail.com)



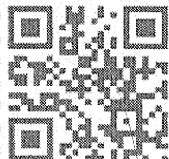
Quilts, Fabric, Yarn, Needlepoint  
Notions, And Gifts

**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