

The Sou'west Voyage

Norwood Cove Greening Island Southwest Harbor Manset Seawall

Our Lives

By Susan Buell

What can I say?? At a newsletter meeting, I mentioned, why don't we write about the lives of women- some stories about women's work, about women's contributions to our community. Without missing a beat, my colleagues suggested three strong, capable and gracious women.

Lucky me! I contacted Joan Terry, Maxine Carroll and Betty Allen. Happily, each agreed to be featured in an article for our newsletter. I enjoyed our visits, sharing things we had in common, seeing pictures of another time, and learning more about their lives. What a privilege! I offered some suggestions, prompts, or questions to each. Sometimes we veered off in other directions. Our different experiences and perspectives are what make us unique.



Picture from Joan Robinson Terry of the Fernald Point rd gang. The Kenney's, Robinsons, Dorrs, Wallace's, Terrys. Who can identify these children? Trivia question!

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Presidents Message

This summer we opened the Museum several days for visitors to view our ever changing exhibits. One of those days was the day of the Flamingo Festival parade, which we participated in.

In June Tom Benson, local surveyor, presented an interesting program on the “then and now” of surveying in conjunction with the recently restored 1887 Colby & Stuart map. And, we have received some other exciting acquisitions that are detailed later in this newsletter.

There are several new exhibits in the Museum - one that includes artifacts that represent the church, a Chalkware exhibit, and a private collection of woven sweet grass baskets. Another exhibit focuses on women’s contributions in times past to our area, including several items related to Myrna Fahey’s career.

Looking forward, I want to share that our annual meeting will be at the Museum on Wednesday, September 20, at 6:00 p.m. We are planning a festive Christmas Open House that all ages will be able to enjoy. There are two dates - Saturday, December 9 from 1:00 to 4:00 & Wednesday, December 13 from 3:00 to 6:00. Be sure to come for some refreshments and Christmas cheer!

We are grateful for the ongoing support of the community and members. I hope to see you soon!

Aimee Williams

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Photo of Tom Benson, courtesy of Julie Fernald

Membership Dues

We changed the membership dues structure starting in 2022 to being on an annual basis of January thru December of each calendar year. This is just a friendly reminder to send your 2023 dues if you have not already done so. Your dues are an important source of income for our annual budget that helps us pay our bills. And, having your dues paid keeps our interesting newsletters coming to your mailbox!

Please fill in the email address only if you wish to receive future newsletters that way. Those who elect email delivery will still receive your newsletter by regular mail in November. Please fill out your blue membership form and return with your payment. The date above your name indicates your current dues status.

Please list your summer mailing address, including your P.O. Box and winter mailing address. If this notice applies to you, we can make sure we send the newsletter to the correct mailing address, thank you!

Officers: Aimee Williams (P), Leslie Watson (VP), Brenda Albers (Tres), Beth Gaiser (Sec), ;
Board Members: Anne Welles, Susan Buell, Julie Fernald, Bernice Klausky, Clifford Noyes, Brenda Lawson, and Timothy Stanley.

Donations

John Briggs

Anne Welles

Ruth Braun

Peter Colson.

Joan Terry

Andrea & Weldon Leonard.

Mark Worcester.

Phyllis Acadia.

John Potter.

Jean B Dean.

Hector & Susan Vafiedes Diaz

Marion Stanley

Dalen & Liz Mills

Carroll & Thomas Fernald

Ellen Pope

Henry Raup

John & Ingrid Kachmar

Heidi Crock

Rebecca Castle Maderia

Death Notices

Janet Lewis Mitchell 85. Southwest Harbor. 02/25/2023

Susan Stanwood Clark. 83. Southwest Harbor. 05/14/2023

Robert Norberg 89. Southwest Harbor/Bar Hbr. 05/18/2023

Henry Scherer 96. Southwest Harbor. 06/18/2023.

Avis A Bradford 79. Southwest Harbor. 06/26/2023

Kevin L Walsh Sr. 79. Southwest Hbr/Boca Raton, FL

George E DeWolfe. 78. Southwest Harbor. 07/02/2023

Robert Wayne Jackson 93. Southwest Harbor. 07/07/2023.

Warren P Mead. 74. Southwest Harbor. 07/14/2023

Joyce H Worcester. 71. Southwest Harbor. 07/30/2023

Cont.
Our Lives

I've appreciated the opportunity to talk to and learn from Joan, Maxine and Betty. As Joan said, this is a wonderful place to live, and life is what you make it.

Joan, Betty, and Maxine are vibrant, engaged, and courageous women. Their rich lives have been full of exciting and happy times, and times of great heartache. They are all over 80. All are widows, living alone, in homes they have lived in for decades. Or, in the case of Maxine, who is living NEXT DOOR to the house she lived in for decades! To do justice to each of their stories, we've decided to publish their stories one at a time. We will try to let their voices speak to you

Starting with Joan-

Joan Robinson Terry is 90, although with that skip in her step Joan could fool anyone! She was born in Southwest Harbor. Except for living in Massachusetts for 2 years and Portland for 3 years, her home has been on Fernald Point Rd.

When Joan was growing up, there were a good number of children living in the Fernald Point Rd neighborhood. There were the Dorrs, the Terrys, the Kenneys, the Wallaces, and the Robinsons. As Joan said: "We made our own fun, sliding on the Causeway Club golf course, playing Hide and Seek, swimming by the Causeway. In the winter we would go house to house, playing cards-my Mom made treats!" I learned that Joan's future husband, Wilbert Terry, grew up in her neighborhood!

When they were older, Joan remembers, "we went to the movies every week. It was located where McEachern and Hutchins is now. We had a bowling alley on Clark Pt, which had many, many leagues. We did a lot of hiking and swimming, and just keeping ourselves busy. As the saying goes, we made our own fun, and it was safe to be out after dark.



Photo of Southwest Harbor Fire Dept./courtesy of Joan Terry

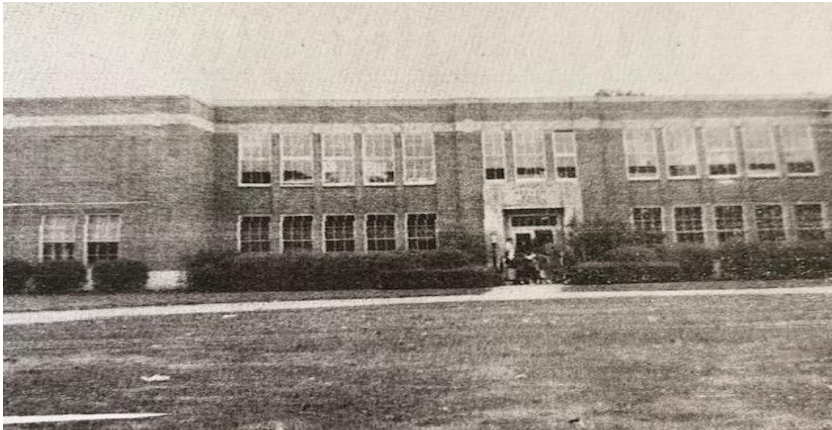
Wilbert and Joan married in 1954 and had two daughters, Kim and Amy. "They both passed away, but we have three wonderful grandchildren and seven great-grand children. They all live close by which helps keep our life fun and busy"

Joan worked at LS Robinson for 40 years. In addition to taking care of her home and family, Joan also did the books for their business, Terry's Tanks. After retiring from LS Robinson at the age of 69, Joan was "not happy doing nothing" so she went to work summers at the Northeast Harbor Swim Club. Joan retired from Terry's Tanks at 90!!

Joan and Wilbert were always busy and active in the community, Joan was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, the Lionesses, taught Sunday School at her church, and held leadership positions in the Lionesses and at the church. In addition to being the Fire Chief of the Southwest Harbor Fire Department, and running their business, Terry's Tanks, Wilbert was active in the Shriners. Over ten summer weekends, Joan and Wilbert took the kids to parades from Connecticut to Labrador, camping along the way. Wilbert's His Coast Guard replica boat was always a fan favorite in the parades. (I remember my children cheering and waving for Wilbert and the other Shriners driving their little boats in the Bar Harbor, July 4th parades).



Annah Shriener boat floats, photo courtesy of Julie Fernald



Original Pemetic High School, now Elementary School/courtesy of Joan Terry



Annah Shriner boat floats, Photo courtesy of Julie Fernald

I asked about the doctors and dentist in Southwest Harbor. Joan was born in the Ellsworth hospital. Joan remembers: "Dr Neal and Dr. Millstein were the doctors in town. Both had offices in town-about the end of house calls. Dr Gilley was the dentist. I did not like going to him, but I would ride my bike and cry all the way. The [Southwest Harbor] Medical Center on Herrick Rd. was a project that many of us worked hard on to get it started.

I asked about the consolidation of the Island's three town high schools into the MDI High School. What is her viewpoint? Joan graduated from Pemetic Junior- Senior High School. There were 35 graduates in her class. . Joan was not in favor of consolidation. She tells us: "...as I feel it took away all the personal contact with friends you grew up with. Sports and clubs at the consolidated school left a lot of students out that would have participated in them in a smaller school. I know it has some advantages, but in my opinion, they do not out way the [disadvantages] of the smaller school. So many kids have cars today, the buses have just a handful of kids in them. We could just walk to school, and that gave us exercise.

I asked about World War Two, wondering if Joan had memories of life in town. During the War, many items that we take for granted were rationed. Joan remembers ration books and coupons, One day she and her grandmother went into town to Jackson's Market. Joan's grandmother asked for butter, which was a rationed item. She had her coupons ready. Mr. Jackson said he didn't have any butter. Hmm... their dog immediately went behind the counter and reappeared with a package of butter in his teeth. Joan's grandmother got her butter!!



Joan & Wilbert Terry, Marion & Wesley Rolfe, Keith Robbins and Cecil & Julie Fernald

Recent Acquisitions

We are very grateful for the items we have received since our last newsletter. Recently, we have acquired 10 prints by local artist Christine Bulmer Gilley, a Christening gown, a print looking towards the Causeway and a Southwest Harbor High School knitted hat. In addition, we have been given a Civil War musket, complete with powder flasks and lead; anda yarn wreath.

The prints have been matted and framed and will be hung very soon for all to enjoy. We are hoping the musket will be on display by the end of September.

As always, we look forward to receiving new items telling the stories of times gone by.

Flamingo Festival 2023

We participated in the Flamingo Festival in July, and had our own float! A Big thank-you to Leslie Watson and Clifford Noyes for riding in our float, and thank you to all who were involved in setting up and driving the float for the Parade. The theme this year was Peace, Love & Flamingos !

Photo courtesy of Mary Ellen Martel



Message from the Newsletter Committee

As we look to 2023, we will be asking for your help. Since everything is more expensive in our world today, our dues have not increased!! They still are only \$15.00 a year. What has increased is the printing of our newsletter. We would like to try and hold down those costs, by asking you to use the blue sheet on your renewal. We have seen many individuals use this form of sending in their dues, donations or in memory as of late. As with years past, the date above your name indicates when your dues were last paid. If you see no date, this indicates we have none on file, and you have been receiving this newsletter to help increase our membership. Please take this opportunity to help support us, and join. We will be reviewing our mailing list in the upcoming months, don't get left off because you forgot to join. Help us continue growing and supporting our heritage and community development. We look forward to your ideas on articles, programs, events and look for our trivia question in each newsletter.

No one wrote in with the names of the ladies sitting around the table. This photo was our trivia question. Check out our new website design. We have seen an increase in visits to our new website. We are so happy with the feedback, indicating how easy navigating this site has become. We hope you will visit our new website, www.swbhhs.org. Visit us & enjoy other exhibits at our museum. We will be open on September 6, 16, 27 and Oct. 7 th from 1-3 pm each date. Our Annual Meeting is set for Wednesday September 20 th 2023 at 6 pm.