



## *The Sou'west Voyage*

Norwood Cove    Greening Island    Southwest Harbor    Manset    Seawall

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### **Boston Post Cane 2022**

*Ninah Rein, MDIslander*

Willard Colson recently received the town's Boston Post Cane, which signifies that he is the oldest resident of Southwest Harbor.

Select Board Chair George Jellison handed 99-year-old Colson the community heirloom in early March.

The Boston Post Cane is a tradition that started in 1909 when the now-defunct Boston Post newspaper gave out canes to 700 towns in New England, which included those on Mount Desert Island. Colson, a Maine native who turned 99 on Jan. 20, has been a resident of Southwest Harbor for 68 years. He worked at the former Stinson Canning Company, which was located at Dysart's Great Harbor Marina, for 46 years. Colson's wife passed away roughly 10 years ago. His retired son Peter and daughter-in-law Cindy are Colson's primary caregivers. Colson now has dementia, sometimes has difficulty hearing and gets around in a wheelchair.

"He can have a full-on conversation as long as he can hear you," Peter said.



*Willard Colson (Left), with Select board member George Jellison (right)  
Photo courtesy of Julie Fernald*

## Presidents Message

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Since we purchased the building in July 2018, our goal has been to open it as a museum. While we weren't the only ones to experience a pause to our plans within the past few years, we are making great progress towards our goal thanks to our team here, and the support of those around us! The collection committee has been meeting almost every week this winter to add to the digital archives on our website, and even though many items have been added, there are many more to do. We were recently notified that our website needed an update. It is currently being worked on, so please excuse any problems you may encounter when on the website. The update should be completed in the near future.

Our permanent outdoor exhibit of the bell from our steeple is now in place, and the winter cover has been removed. By mid-summer we are planning to have an inside exhibit ready for visitors. We have other activities planned as well, so please see the upcoming events in later newsletters. The Colby map restoration has been stalled, as the Fine Arts Conservationist in Portland has been delayed. We are anxiously awaiting the completion of this artifact so we can have it on exhibit! Due to the building and the outside areas needing to be Spring Cleaned, we recently had a clean-up day—with another day to be scheduled soon

Our Capital Campaign is now over, but we are still accepting donations. Overall, we did very well and fell short by less than \$4,000. Thank you to all of our donors and to the community for your support, as raising over \$70,000 is no easy feat.

The support of our members and the community continues to be encouraging, as we are making strides in becoming a social and educational attraction in Southwest Harbor!

Aimee Williams

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## 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 2022 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 mail box!

**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 November newsletter by regular mail, because we enclose return envelopes with that mailing for your convenience.**

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

Donations

Phyllis Acadia.	Alan & Diane Amendt.	Alexandra & David Andrews
Ken & Helen Beal.	Joanne Beal.	Anne Benson
Lynne Birlem.	Rusty & Lynne Bradford.	John & Kate Briggs
Susan Buell.	Andy Cline.	Lawrence Cole
Roger & Margaret Dam.	Richard Dimond.	Deborah Dyer
Ken & Mary Evans.	Nathaniel & Sugar Fenton.	Thomas & Carroll Fernald
Jack Gibbons.	Joanne & Richard Fuerst.	Kim & Jean Hauritz
Leslie & Ann Heilakka.	Kate & Eric Henry.	Nancy Holler
Peter & Linda Homer.	Steven & Nancy Homer.	Steven & Katherine Hughes
Kristin Hutchins	Ruth Jellison.	Jane Kenney
Sam Lawrence.	Marty Lyons	Susan Newman
Samuel & Katherine Lawrence.		Andrea & Weldon Leonard
Edward & Rosalinda Madura, Jr.		Kathe Newman Walton
Wendall & Elizabeth Oppewall		Michael & Elizabeth Radcliffe
Jeffrey Oxman.	John Potter.	David & Barbara Rice
Louise Riemer.	Eleanor Robbins.	Loretta Rogers
Robert & Cynthia Robertson.		Charles Sheppard
Mark Silver.	Damaris Smith.	Caren Litvin & Rick Smith
Cummins & Diane Speakman.		John & Linda Stanley
Robert Hoyt & Janet Strong.		John & Mary Treanor
Tim Stanley.	Laurel Towers.	Jim & Mary Vekasi
Ann Tikkanen & Mark Sullivan.		Jennifer Waters & Todd Peterson
Eugene Walls.	Leighton Wass.	Anne Welles
Nancy Wilder.	Mark Worcester.	Jason Young

XYZ

In Memory\Honor of

Brenda Albers.	<i>In memory of Bruce Albers; Edna Jellison; and George Jellison, Sr.</i>
Lynne Birlem.	<i>In memory of Ralph Stanley; Wilbert Terry</i>
Susan Buell.	<i>In memory of John Buell</i>
Richard & Natalie Bush	<i>In memory of Polly Norwood</i>
Edwin & Liza Butler, Jr.	<i>In memory of Ralph Stanley</i>
Rebecca Carlson.	<i>In memory of Bruce Carlson</i>
Julie & Cecil Fernald.	<i>In memory of Nettie Norwood Silva</i>
Elaine Fernald.	<i>In memory of Allen Fernald</i>
Sonia Field.	<i>In memory of Crosby Greening Mills</i>
Betsy Holtzmann.	<i>In memory of Ralph Stanley</i>
Ted Gaiser.	<i>In memory of Charles K. Homberger</i>
George Jellison, Jr.	<i>In memory of Barbara &amp; Earl Moser</i>
Charles & Frances Johnson.	<i>In memory of Oscar, Inez &amp; Emery Krantz</i>
G. Bernice Klausky.	<i>In memory of Eldora. Silva Cerio</i>
Abe Noyes.	<i>In memory of Ralph Stanley</i>
Janice Reed.	<i>In memory of David R. Reed</i>
James & Cassie Sawyer.	<i>In memory of Celeste Harkins</i>
Edith Starwood.	<i>In memory of Sandra Gott</i>
Aimee Williams.	<i>In memory of Edna Jellison and George Jellison, Sr</i>
Aimee Williams	<i>In memory of Paul Williams</i>
Jacqueline Young.	<i>In memory of Harry &amp; Fannie Bennett</i>

**Odd Happenings: Southwest Harbor, the IOOF & Rebekah's, and our Shared History**

**G. McGill**

Of all things to think about when mentioning Southwest Harbor, the Free Masons and their miscellaneous branches tend to be lower on the list of small talk— until one takes a good look at a few particular buildings on Main street in downtown!

While the IOOF (Independent Order of Oddfellows) might seem an obscure name to some, just as the Rebekah's, both are branches of the more famous grouping of Free Masons and both had parts in the history of our town for quite some time until each respective chapters in Southwest Harbor dissolved by the mid 80's. But who, and what, are both organizations? And why on earth would they both be here, of all places?



*The Oddfellow's building, next to the Tremont Masonic hall #77, 1881  
Photo courtesy of the SWH Public Library*

The IOOF is actually one of the oldest and largest service-oriented fraternities globally. In their own words, they are "...non-political and non-sectarian. Membership is open to all regardless of sex, race, religion, political affiliation and social status -all bound by the desire to improve ourselves and the calling to live and promote the principles of Friendship, Love, and Truth which transcends labels. We believe that by developing close friendships among each other and by working together in our communities, we can make a difference in the world and among ourselves" (quote from their affiliated website). This particular organization's name was given to them mostly as a descriptor to the fact that they were all a bunch of "Odd Fellows" to be associating with one another at the time (Some being of the upper class, and others to working class professions).

To give you an idea of just how large and hidden-in-plain-sight this group has been, here are some very well-known people that just so happened to also be high ranking members of the IOOF: Red Skelton, Ulysses S. Grant, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, Charlie Chaplin, and Winston Churchill — just to name a few!

The Rebekah's (Daughters of Rebekah) started out as a female only branch of the IOOF, following similar principles with service and philanthropy, and now both are co-ed service and philanthropic organizations. The IOOF branched off from the Free Mason's potentially as early as the 12th - 13th century in England, with definitive evidence of their groups and their involvement by 1650. The Rebekah's were able to make history as the first female branch of IOOF (and first fraternity in the United States to admit women) in 1851.

The Oddfellows got their start in our midst on May 7th, 1895 with 22 charter members, with E A Lawler being the first Noble Grand (President). 4 of the founding charter members were from Bar Harbor, choosing to add their names to the charter so that there would be enough people in order for the formation of the lodge (A E Farnsworth, Dr JD Phillips, George R Fuller, Alvah Rich) . In 1897, the Oddfellow lodge solidified their local presence by building their 1st lodge— at what is now 357 Main street! The building itself was erected in 1897, and while it was destroyed in a fire in 1922, it was rebuilt a year later. This building has been a great many things on top of it being their lodge, and was even host to our Town office until 1922.



*The Oddfellow building, showing Spanish Civil War addition , 1898  
Photo courtesy of the SWH Public Library*

The local chapter of Oddfellows disbanded their charter November 20th, 1989, with the local Rebekah's chapter assumed to have done so within the same time frame.

Within the collection of the Historical Society— while not as visible as a building right on Main street— we do have artifacts from the Rebekah's, solidifying their presence as well. We are lucky to have a Rebekah ring, a pin with their crest, and there is also a Rebekah's cookbook that is all part of our collection. The SWH Public library also has a picture of our local Rebekah's chapter as well as their names, but sadly no date.



*Photo courtesy of the SWH Public Library, taken at the Oddfellow lodge on an unspecified date (Left to Right) : Cora Bragg, Cad Spurling, Maud Annis, Manda Richardson, Nora King, Susie King, Kate Carroll, Lou Mayo, Cara Haynes, Annie Lawton, Edith Gilley Mrs. Jones Tracy, Laura Haddock, Unidentified Woman, Linnie Wilson*

A



B



*Picture A (right)*  
*Daughters of Rebekah Ring,*  
*An artifact of a former Rebekah donated by Bernice Klauskey*

*Picture B (left)*  
*Daughters of Rebekah Pin*

In the pictures of the ring and pendant, you can see the crest of the Daughters of Rebekah—which is a culmination of their group's symbols. Here is a breakdown the symbols seen in this crest and their meanings:

“The beehive, a representation of cooperative industry teaching the advantages of united efforts in all the ministries of the order.

The moon and seven stars represent the never failing order which pervades the universe of God and all of nature, and suggest to the members the value of system, regularity and precision in all worthy undertakings.

The dove, a universally recognized emblem of peace, has this significance in the Rebekah Degree. Through the mission of love and charity, of tolerance and forbearance, Rebekahs strive to bring happiness to others and to promote “Peace on earth and good will to men.”

The lily, long regarded as the emblem of purity, is a symbol of the purity of character, of thought, of word, and of action which are aspired to in the hearts and lives of members of the Rebekah Lodge.”

*(information quoted from Oddfellows.org)*

Both our library and the Historical Society have precious little documented information about the members of both orders within Southwest Harbor, or what they did between their founding and when they disbanded. If you or anyone you know has stories about any of the members, their community functions, or any artifacts that you would like to donate to keep their histories alive, please feel free to stop by the church or to reach out to us!

While fitting to remain in healthy obscurity, the architecture that still remains from the Oddfellows and the artifacts that we do have from the Rebekah's are a testimonial to just how much rich history our little Island community has if we only just scratch the surface of what we see around us today.

If this teasing has peaked your interest into knowing more in-depth histories of both organizations, their website ([oddfellows.org](http://oddfellows.org)) is a wealth of information of not only the history of their chapters and notable members of each here in the United States, but also abroad.

*Information sourced from the following: SWH Historical Society Archives; SWH Public Library Photo Archives; Traditions and records of SWH and Somesville Mt Desert Island, ME by Mrs Seth Thornton 1938 p 121-122; [oddfellows.org](http://oddfellows.org)*

## The Bell and the Belfry: A Glimpse at our Bell and its Recent Make-Over

*Article and Pictures by Julie Fernald*

The Manset Meetinghouse, now the home of the Southwest Harbor Historical Society since 2018, was once one of the first houses of worship on Mt. Desert Island. It began on the current site around 1828, with the building completed around 1830. It was used as a house of worship during the summer months until completion. Nicholas Tucker deeded the land over in January 1831. He was one of the members of the community, along with David King, Wm. Ward, Albert Bartlett, Dudley Dolliver, Samuel Newman, John Stanley, Andrew Whitney, Eaton Moore and H.H. Clark and others, who pledged money to purchase the land.

The Mutual Benevolent Society of Southwest Harbor purchased the bell from Naylor Co. of Boston on November 7, 1866 for \$193.42. The bell has been in the belfry since that purchase. Several renovations were done on the steeple and belfry over the life of the church. Those dates of repair were 1880's, 1919, 1922 and most recently in April 2021. Belden Morse, owner of The Steeple People of Machias, ME was commissioned to repair the steeple framework and secure the belfry. Sadly, the bell was not safe to return to the belfry, due to its weight of 1200lbs.

Chet Lewis and Sharon Lawson laid a new granite stone in front of the Meeting house. John Goodwin, Jr. Co. was able to lift the bell and wheel and transport it to Clayton Strout's home in Manset and then return it. Clayton was able to glass blast the rust and then apply a treatment for conservation. She now sits on her granite stone. Such a loving community, all donating their services and support to retain our bell for generations to continue ringing her tune!



*Our restored bell on it's new granite platform*



*Clayton Strout working on the bell*