

The Sou'west Voyage

Norwood Cove Greening Island Southwest Harbor Manset Seawall

The Changing Store Fronts

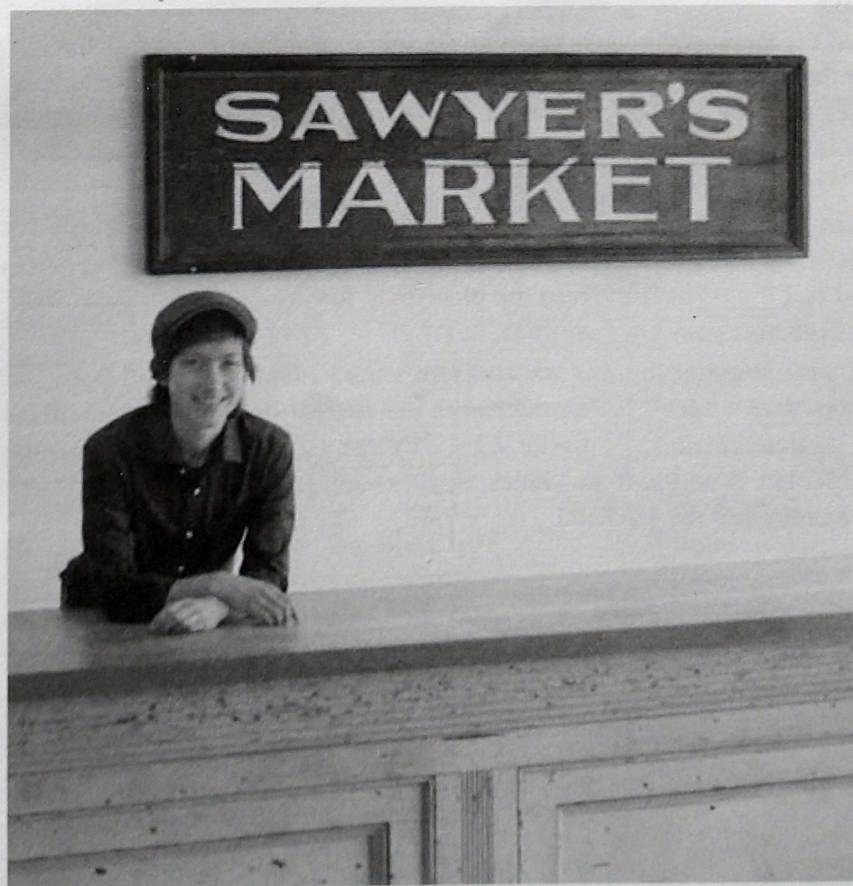
Susan Buell

The cold, dark, January 2020 morning started as any other workday began for Brian Worcester, owner of Sawyer's Market. He was up well before dawn, he scraped the ice off the windshield, and drove into town. Sawyer's opened daily at 5:30am.

However, this particular January morning was to be the beginning of the end of the Worcester family's chapter at Sawyer's Market. Gray/black soot greeted Brian. The furnace had exploded! Soot covered everything; all the inventory.

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Picture of Lio Cook, who now runs Sawyer's Market



Presidents Message

As we are now in the “quiet” season here on MDI, I have time to reflect on our activities and accomplishments of 2022. I hope you were able to attend our events this year – the Open House with our first exhibit, the tribute to the late Ralph Stanley that primarily accomplished by his family, the Annual Meeting and the Addison Packing/seine fishing program.

At our Annual Meeting, we welcomed new board member Jan Michaud. We have a good board that has much enthusiasm for our mission.

In the coming months our Programs Committee will be meeting to plan the 2023 programs and events. We are interested in hearing from community members with possible thoughts for future programs. Please send suggestions to:

southwestharborhistorical@gmail.com

We thank the community members who have donated some interesting and valuable artifacts to us. The Collection Committee has been busy assessing the donations for their relevance to our purpose before actually accessioning them to our archives. In the coming winter months, the committee will be working on adding to the digital archives so website visitors can learn more about our local rich history.

Aimee Williams

207-441-7251

aimeewilliams363@gmail.com

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, since this issue you will need to fill out the info from the blue sheet for the upcoming year dues. The date above your name indicates your current dues.

Please list your summer mailing address and winter mailing address if this notice applies to you, so we can make sure we send the newsletter to the correct mailing address, thank you!

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

Donations

Heidi L Crock
Lee Ann Rhoades
Joseph & Nancy Hayes
Chris & Carolyn Groobey
Mark Stoler & Barbara Barker
Louise Riemer
Mark Silver
Anne Welles

In Memory Of

Jeanette Michaud in memory of Simeon Michaud
Gloria Butler in memory of Jack Gilley, Sr.
Aimee Williams in memory of Jack Gilley, Sr.
Kristen Hutchins in memory of Jack Gilley, Sr.
Alan Spurling in memory of Jack Gilley, Sr.
Mary Linden in memory of Jack Gilley, Sr.
Lawrence Cole in memory of Carolyn Dolliver

Death Notices

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Wright, Wanda	90.	SWH	04/28/2020
Norberg, Katrina	84.	SWH	05/18/2022
Farley, Lisa Marie	58.	Oregon	07/02/2022
Wright, Frederick	88.	SWH	09/07/2022
Leighton, Linwood(Woody)	82.	SWH	09/10/2022
Thurston, Mildred	89.	SWH	09/11/2022
Hall, Harold Jr.	90.	SWH	09/19/2022
Bernaquer, Dale Richard	48.	SWH	09/20/2022
Gilley, Jack, Sr.	89.	SWH	10/08/2022
Alley, Cleo H	84.	SWH/Northport	10/14/2022
Kenney, Felton (Bud)	90.	SWH/Idaho	10/23/2022
Kelley, Kenneth F, Sr.	62.	SWH/Florida	10/27/2022
Seaman, John W III	76.	SWH/Machias	10/31/2022

Cont. The Changing Store Fronts

The entire store was coated. It was a disaster... Sawyer's Market did not open that morning, and as we now know, was not to open again until July 2022. Cleaning up and disposing of the spoiled merchandise, replacing damaged equipment, dealing with the insurance people, worrying about how to keep his loyal staff on the payroll during the winter- all this was overwhelming. And then the furnace exploded again. For several years, Brian had considered retiring and selling the market. Now was the time... The town was shocked to see the FOR SALE sign. Sawyer's Market was for sale!! What would happen??

Many worried about Brian and his crew. Loyal customers missed the convenience of a downtown grocery store. Early birds missed their 6:00am coffee spot. Others missed the congenial community atmosphere. Those living downtown without a car lost their grocery store. Westside Food Pantry recipients lost a place to shop. And there was general concern about having another empty storefront. For many, Sawyer's Market had been "the jewel in the crown". NOW WHAT??

Fairly quickly, a buyer appeared. Brian sold the business to David Milliken. Mr. Milliken wanted to preserve Sawyer's Market. He wanted to have an in-town market. Renovations began. David Milliken had his hand in the design decisions. Out with the old and in with the new. New coolers, shelves, floor, and lighting. Kept in the dark by the window covers, the community waited and waited for some news-What was happening at Sawyer's? Evidently, the hunt for someone to manage the store hit several dead ends.



Ralph Richardson Sawyer and Friend in front of Sawyer's Market 1942, courtesy of SWH Public Library

Enter Lio Cook in the summer of 2021. Lio was in touch with Mr Milliken's right-hand man about possible working at the store whenever it opened. In the winter of 2022, things shifted. After much negotiation, David Milliken and Lio Cook came to an agreement. Lio would run the store...

This is a new chapter for the market Ralph and Charles Sawyer opened in 1946. Lio Cook describes himself as an entrepreneur at heart, a risk taker. Lio and his partner, Rebecca, are committed to the community. They want Sawyer's Market to be a store for everyone in the community. Sawyer's will be open throughout the winter with somewhat diminished hours-Tuesday-Saturday, 10-6. As much as possible, Lio is working with local suppliers to keep the money in the community. The market sells grass fed beef and drug free chicken. They are making an effort to keep produce reasonably priced. Being a small store, their prices can't compete with the larger stores. Sawyer's accepts EBT and Westside Food Pantry vouchers. I am grateful the Market is open. I try to shop there every week!!

The changing of the guard at Sawyer's Market gives us an opportunity to remember and, for many of us, learn what Southwest Harbor was like when the Worcester's bought Sawyer's Market in 1959. At that time Southwest Harbor supported five grocery stores! Three were located on Clark Point Road: Boynton's, T.W. Jackson's, and Trundy's.

The A+P was across from the current Davis Agency, and Sawyer's Market. Census figures show a population of approximately 1500. (Today's population is 1778)

How did our town support 5 grocery stores? What was different back then?? I asked Brian Worcester, Jane Kenney, and Bernice Klausky to shed some light on this question. I'm grateful for their recollections of Southwest Harbor from 60+ years ago.



60th Anniversary flyer for Sawyers Market, 2006.

Courtesy of Southwest Harbor Library

Back then, Southwest Harbor was a self-contained community. Most people worked and shopped in town. They did not drive out of town to buy groceries! For the most part, shoppers did not "stock up." People did not have big refrigerators or freezers. A standard freezer might hold a couple of ice cube trays, a pound of hamburger and a half gallon of ice cream. Folks did not buy ahead. Each market was small. They did not all carry the same items. Each might have their specialties. Boynton's carried S.S. Pierce high, quality canned goods. At the A+P, shoppers could grind and bag their coffee. Trundy's had the best cheese. Go to Jackson's and Sawyer's for meat. Town people knew the store owners and their families. Folks were often loyal to a store because their friend owned it.

Sawyer's Market was very small. Until they built their first addition in 1988, the market had two aisles and the meat counter. Standing at the check-out counter, the customer faced a wall with floor to ceiling shelves stocked with groceries.

The store clerk, who stood behind the counter, got the items you requested. Back then, Sawyer's clerks were ALWAYS male. They did not employ a woman until the early 1990's! Of course, Mary Worcester was always there taking the phone orders...

Each market took orders over the phone. Boynton's and Sawyer's delivered. Families had one car, and often the man took the car to work. Sometimes the man would do the shopping or would pick up the items their wives or mothers had ordered.

This was a very different time. As they say, that was then, this is now. Kids could ride their bikes to school, to visit their friends, and to get to basketball practice. Now we won't let them...

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.

This month's trivia question is, can you name the cemetery and pond out behind our Manset Meetinghouse ??? Look forward to you answers. Send your answers to our email address at southwestharborhistorical@gmail.com Julie S Fernald

Collections Recent Acquisitions

We are so grateful to have people in our community donate items to the Historical Society! Here is a special collections report listing items that have been donated to us recently. We are always accepting donations, so feel free to stop on by should you have something that you feel should be preserved for future generations to see and learn from!

- Mildred Chalmers. Photos and newspaper clippings
- Dan & Rita Chalmers. Photos of seining and year books
- Dennis Wint. 12 books
- Denise Garver Strout. Stuffed Owl given to Rachel Spurling Garver at graduation
- Thomas & Robin Benson. 1887 Colby Map
- Pamela & David Diehl. Baby clothes of Great Grandmother and Grandmother
- Al Michaud. Old brass lamps that hung in our sanctuary, possibly original
- JoAnne and Richard Fuerst Daybed lounge originally built in SWH
- Gerald Rich. School Photos
- Duane Worcester. Photo of SWH Post Office
- Stores King. Multiple letters and documents of shipping along our shores
- John Clark, Jr. Ice Tool, green floatation buoy, and deep sea weights
- Marjorie Monteleon. Framed and matted antique Nautical Chart of SWH
- Jim and Maxine Carroll. Pematic HS Sports Collection, LaHaye Collection and Air Alert Team



Cradle belonged to Lena Griggs Norwood Mitchell, born in 1897. Donated by Brenda Berry Lawson

- Leslie Watson. Multiple letters and documents belonging to her parents Les & Betty King and her Grandparents as well.
- Brenda Lawson. Cradle and quilt that belonged to her Grandmother, Lena Griggs Norwood Mitchell. China Doll, old flat irons, fishing documents, photos of weirs, and a book of Colby Maps
- Janice Reed. Multiple clothing from early 1900's worn by her family members. Eye Glasses from 1900's and Red Cross Uniform
- Bernice Klausky. Multiple old bottles from a physician bag, SWH high school Pin, Rebekah ring and pin, velvet coat, photos and cookbook.
- Betty Allen. Painting of seining operation, cd of sardine canning and multiple photos
- Sharon Lawson. Yearbooks, patches and Baseball Glove belonging to Gardner Mitchell



Chairs are from the CC camp in Southwest Harbor, donated by Mary Lou Long Curtis.