

Harpswell Historical Society

News

Summer



The Harpswell Historical Society is dedicated to the discovery, identification, collection, interpretation, and dissemination of materials relating to the history of Harpswell.

Members and Friends of the Society

Momentum is a wonderful word and it certainly has swung in our Society's direction. The sign on the porch roof of our newest building proudly proclaims Harpswell Historical Society Museum & Archives. A few weeks ago after some advertising and phone calls, the first attempt to clean out the former Bailey's Store was met with very great success. I was able to count at least fifty of Harpswell's citizens who came armed with curiosity and goodwill. A woman came in and said that she was going to the Recycling Center and was there anything that she could take. We promptly filled her car! A young man came in to see what was going on and took 4 truck loads away. At the end of the day the building was very nearly cleaned out. Our Society has many friends. Thanks to all.

For our Society to create a Museum & Archives is certainly a leap of faith. That large leap of faith is helped by the good work of Walter Norton. Since starting last August Walter has raised \$150,000 dollars for our cause. His fund raising is ongoing this summer to meet our goal of

\$250,000. Walter's good work will not let any of the rest of us off the hook however.

Soon we will be sending out letters urging financial support from everyone to all in town. Please be sure to tell your friends and neighbors.

Together we will build a museum. We be proud of, our community. It deserves nothing less.

Respectfully,

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Genealogy

course of a year the Historical Society receives for genealogy information there has been very much. In anticipation of the meeting for the society at a genealogy group has and is meeting at 4 PM Sunday of each month and Library. Anyone interested in talking about genealogy information on any Harpswell families is currently have information on following families and are interested.

- Merryman
- Doyle
- Britt
- Darling
- Linscott
- Prince
- Green
- Webber
- Sylvester
- Orr
- Curtis
- Stover

ve a copy of the births, marriages from the town 2000 in both chronological and in alphabetical order. The alphabetical list is available from the Society for a fee. Lists for several of the cemeteries, church

baptismal records for the 1700's and some Casco Bay Directories.

Additionally, we are looking for copies of photographs of the older residents of Harpswell, school year-books, school group photos, town reports, copies of the family info in family bibles, old deeds, Casco Bay Directories prior to 1950 and in general any material which might help a researcher to identify an ancestor or a place of residence at a particular time. If you do not wish to donate the original material to the society, we will carefully copy it for our genealogy reference library and return it to you. All material which we collect will be stored in a locked glass front bookcase and will be made available to researchers for study, but these materials will not be removed from the premises.

When the new Historical Society Museum and Archives is ready, the collection will be moved there and original documents will be stored in a climate controlled vault when not being used.

If you have, or know of, any genealogical material or are interested in attending a meeting please contact Gerry York 833-5873, gyork@clinic.net or just show up at one of the meetings.

Officers and Directors 2000-2001

- Ralph Black, Jr.
- David Hackett, III (President)
- Peg Newberg
- Burr Taylor
- Gerald York (Secretary/Treasurer)

Harpswell - a poem

Harpswell, dear old Harpswell, the place I was born,
 Many happy hours I have passed with those that are dead and gone
 But some day I hope to meet them in a place that's bright and clear
 And dwell with them forever in a world that's free from care.

It was here I passed my school days, my happiest and the best
 But among all my schoolmates but very few are left;
 They have all gone to a better place than this
 To be with God in Heaven a place of perfect bliss.

I wish I could have my childhood days come back to me once more
 And have my dear ones with me as I did in days of yore;
 But I know that can never be,
 They have crossed the dark river and are from sin and sorrow free.

But when the silent Messenger some day for me shall call,
 I hope I shall be ready to go and join them all;
 And meet them all together in a world that's free from pain,
 And be with them forever NEVER to part again.

Mrs. I

Harpswell Historical Society Membership

<input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00	Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00	Family
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00	Contributor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00	Patron
<input type="checkbox"/> \$200.00	Life	<input type="checkbox"/> ____.	Other

Name _____

Address _____

Town, State, Zip _____

Winter address, if different _____

Your Contribution is tax deductible

Please make your check payable to Harpswell Historical Society and mail it to c/o Gerald York, Treasurer; Harpswell Historical Society; 1334 Harpswell Islands Road; Orr's Island, ME 04

Cemeteries

ve an old family
our Harpswell property
e on a neighbor's
e Historical Society is
ataloging and recording
any of the many small
hich once served the
d homesteads. These
nds of sometimes only
ots are slowly being
lost to development and
Stones are eroding and
information is being
generations. The first
g this trend is to record
s on the stones and the
plot. If you have
hich can assist in this
contact Gerry York
mail gyork@clinic.net.



here this picture was
t happened here that was
u think you might know
nd it to Burr Taylor, 45
rpswell, ME 04079. We

Web site:

www.curtislibrary.com/hhs

Remember the Society's web site!
There you can find the latest update
in the schedule of Society events, the
newest projects, updates for ongoing
projects, miscellaneous Harpswell
history, old photographs and post-
cards, read the latest Society newslet-
ter, discover links to other history
related pages and find contact infor-
mation for Society officers. Bookmark
the Harpswell Historical Society
WebPages for your history needs.

Centennial Hall:

Use of the Hall got off to a great
start at the beginning of this millen-
nium: a Memorial Day exhibit, the
annual meeting of the Harpswell
Land Trust, an art show, flower show
and meetings by the Harpswell
Garden Club, a night of music and
song by local artists, Matt Newberg,
Matt Guite and Susan Marley and the
annual meeting of the Society. We
anticipate increased activities as
improvements continue to develop.
Projects to be considered include
limited kitchen facilities and putting
back the ceiling.

Many thanks to contributors of artifacts:

- ◆ Marie Allen
- ◆ Ellen Berry
- ◆ Lee Chipman
- ◆ Marj Greenhut
- ◆ Family of Linwood and
Virginia Johnson
- ◆ Susan Lowery
- ◆ Maine Public
Broadcasting
- ◆ Nancy and Jonathan
Swinchatt
- ◆ The estate of Burt and
Elizabeth Whitman
- ◆ Charles and Virginia
Wolley

Calendar for 2001

- Oct. 25th Board Meeting
Old Town Meeting
- Nov. 29th Board Meeting
Old Town Meeting
- Dec 13th Board Meeting
Old Town Meeting
- Feb. 28th **Public Meeting**
Cundy's Harpswell
Community
Guest Speaker
Diels-Roll of
**Pejepscot Historical
Society; Top
Chamberlain**
- Apr. 25th Board Meeting
Old Town Meeting
- May 23th Board Meeting
Old Town Meeting
- Memorial Day Centennial
- June 27th ***Public Meeting**
7:30 pm Local
speaker to be
announced
- Jul. 25th Board Meeting
Old Meeting
- Aug. 22nd **Annual Meeting**
Centennial
speaker to be
announced
- *to confirm meeting
call David Hackett (833-6336)
Newberg (833-6336)*

All members are welcome
to attend the board meetings and the
annual meetings. If you wish to attend
a meeting, or have a comment
please call David Hackett (833-6336)
Harpswell, 04079.

will choose two winners at random from
all correct entries received by August
15, 2001.

If you would like some help, check our
website at www.curtislibrary.com/hhs.

store

Harpwell Historical Society
1979 with the intent
own as a repository for
artifacts and as caretakers
of records. In the 20+
at beginning, a number
projects has been

shipbuilding heritage of the area and
a genealogy section with reference
material and collected family histo-
ries. There will be included a climate
controlled fireproof archival vault and
possibly some larger display pieces in
side rooms. The second floor will
become storage, office space and a
workroom where conservation and



building that could
e to the Society eluded
his spring brought us
point with the purchase
re at Harpswell Center.
ll landmark will now
erpiece for the Society's
e first floor is expected
ays reflecting each of
ller communities at
Orr's Island, East
eat Island, Cundy's
swell Neck, Birch Island
land. Also, there will
owing the fishing and

preservation of artifacts will be done.
A small photographic copying facility
will be on this floor. The facility will
have a security system which will
allow not only the safe keeping of our
own collections but will allow us to
borrow artifacts from other institu-
tions for short term display. Displays
reflecting the steamboat trade and
vigorous summer trade are also
planned. Nothing as exciting as this
newest development has occurred
during the past 20 years of the
Historical Society. All are welcome to
be involved in this project.

Fisherman's Memorial

Over this past fall and winter, the
Board of Directors was contacted and
asked if the Historical Society would
like to assume responsibility for the
care and upkeep of the Fisherman
Memorial Statue at Land's End on
Bailey Island. The Committee that
worked to have this memorial placed
at the site in the mid 1970's felt it
was time to pass the torch and we feel
fortunate that they chose the Histori-
cal Society for this responsibility.

The statue was sculpted for the
State of Maine by Victor Kahill to be
displayed in the Maine State Pavilion
in the 1939 New York World's Fair.
The model was fisherman Elroy
Johnson of Bailey Island. After the
World's Fair the plaster casting was
displayed in Portland City Hall where
it was damaged over time. Eventually,
was stored at Bigalow Labs in
Boothbay Harbor in rather poor

condition. After Elroy's
1973, interest was revive
statue and three bronze
were made. One was pla
Augusta at the State Ho
later removed and taken
ton D.C. where it sits o
Avenue. The second cas
Portland at Canal Plaza
and last casting is Harps
Land's End it sits on a p
decided by the Hutchins
it can look out over the
grounds worked by Elro
his fishing career.

The final paperwork
transfer of care for this
landmark was complete
became another addition
responsibilities which th
Society accepts in keepi
dedication to preservin
heritage of Harpswell.

