

# Winter Harbor Historical Society

P.O. Box 93, Winter Harbor, ME 04693

September 2015

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## NEWSLETTER

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### August Program Recap

Rev. Joy shared his research about John Moore of Steuben. Mr. Moore was known as an influential New York financial tycoon in the late 1800's, returning to Maine to become the benefactor for the land that is now the Schoodic section of Acadia National Park. By 1897, he is credited with acquiring ownership of multiple tracts of land totaling over 2000 acres and building a nine mile road, known for many years, as Moore Road to the summit of Schoodic Head. Mr. Moore's home on Grindstone Point: *Far from the Wolf*, later became the Frenchman's Bay Lodge; the focus of Sandy Phippen's book: [Kitchen Boy](#).

### Light's Out

The Franklin Historical Society will host the joint meeting of area historical groups on October 21, 2015 at the Franklin Veteran's Club at 6pm with retired game warden and raconteur, Charlie Marshall as guest speaker. Winter Harbor residents are asked to bring a dessert to share at the potluck dinner and your own place setting. RSVP by October 16 by calling 565-3349.

### Moore Road to Schoodic Loop Road

When John Moore died in 1899, he left a road that provided a day adventure for carriages over a ledge and narrow bridge, accessing the waterfront of the Schoodic Peninsula and the promontory, Schoodic Head. Visitors brought their lunches and enjoyed the land that had been preserved by Mr. Moore and opened to recreation by his road. Farming, fish processing, logging and lobster fishing through the 1800's had brought settlement to the area, but the land boom in Bar Harbor extended to the Schoodic Peninsula in the 1870's, when E.J. Hammond opened a resort hotel in Winter Harbor. The Schoodic Peninsula Land Company and the Harvard Land Company created a development plan, buying from the smaller land owners and marketing lots on the Schoodic Peninsula for resort homes. In 1889, the Gouldsboro Improvement Company, led by John Moore organized development in the Grindstone Point area and preserved the water supply of Birch

Harbor Pond and Schoodic Point. News accounts described a proposed lodge at the summit of Schoodic Head that would be two and one half stories tall and over 80 feet long and 44 feet wide, welcoming visitors to enjoy a resort and Maine's cool summer breezes. Mr. Moore actually marketed the lots of Grindstone Point with the opportunity for hunting and fishing on the preserved lands of Schoodic Point. Speculation about Mr. Moore's future plans for the Schoodic Woods region will continue, but the acreage became dormant for decades after his death. Although the Lower Harbor or Frazer's Point remained a site for a lobster pound and herring fishing until the 1940's, Mr. Moore's heirs maintained their ownership of his holdings. Maine taxes had influenced George Dorr on Mount Desert Island to pursue federal preservation and he is credited with advocating for the inclusion of the Schoodic Point area in 1929. Allen Workman describes the cycles of development and conservation in his book, [Schoodic Point](#), where he documents the attempts to settle and work on Schoodic Point and the preservation of this land with private funds. John Moore's land holdings eventually included the 3,000 acres known as Schoodic Woods, in addition to the 2,000 acres dedicated to the National Park. Winter Harbor designated the road, 'Moore Road' in 1937 and recognized his contribution to the area with a plaque on Schoodic Point.

### Ocean Wood to Schoodic Woods

For over 25 years Ocean Wood Campground in Birch Harbor offered 70 sites ranging from tenting to RV utility hook-ups. When Ocean Wood closed in 2009, the Brunton family left a reputation for assuring a safe and serene environment within their 148 acres. Six years later, Schoodic Woods Campground has opened under the management of the National Park to offer 97 campsites and two group sites for the same range of camping experiences (although Ocean Woods' free hot showers were replaced by free WIFI at Schoodic Woods Campground).

The Schoodic section of the National Park has a history of traffic with over 500 naval personnel,

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120 civilian employees and their families using park roads with other visitors. During this period of use by Ocean Wood campers and the navy, a 2001 research study found more than 92% of the visitors to this section of the national park quite satisfied with their experience. Schoodic Woods brings an additional twelve and a half miles of hiking and bike trails to the 2.6 miles of existing trails on the Schoodic section of Acadia National Park. Avoiding congestion or density of use of Schoodic's natural resources will maintain that positive park experience for visitors and residents.

### Winter Harbor Historical Society

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