

# *Winter Harbor Historical Society*

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

June 2018

---

## NEWSLETTER

---



### ***The Art Gallery***

During World War II, Winter Harbor darkened its lights and kept a vigilant lookout from this Main Street building, making our contribution to the war effort very personal for many residents. A 1999 story in Fisherman's Voice retells the story of a crash of a US blimp 25 miles south of Bar Harbor on July 2, 1944 and explosions reported by residents of Winter Harbor. German U-boat activity was documented off the Maine coast and the German submarine, after leaving spies in Hancock, also torpedoed a Canadian merchant ship off Mount Desert Rock in December 1944.

This building was the original site for Grindstone Inn contractor; Frank Weston's office and showroom. The property was transferred in 1935 to Philip Whitehouse and served as the town's Civil Defense Headquarters. Nathaniel Pendleton's watch and clock repair business was here, when in 1940, artists; Sandra James and Syd Browne first visited Winter Harbor. That year they were both elected to the American Water Color Society and the Allied Artists of America. Mr. Browne was a member of the Society of American Etchers in Brooklyn, NY; Southern Printmakers; Salmagundi Club in New York City; Philadelphia Watercolor Club; and the New York Watercolor Club. Browne exhibited at the Paris Exposition, 1937; World's Fair, New York, 1939; and the Art Institute of Chicago, 1939. His work is on display at the Library of Congress and he was featured in the April 1942 *Print Collectors Quarterly*.

At the height of their careers, the Brownes first leased and then in 1947, purchased this Main Street storefront; transforming it to their gallery. The Brownes bought a barn behind the property in 1952 and remodeled it as their home. Ads for painting lessons and portraits are found in the Peninsula Gazette; Winter Harbor's newsletter through the 1950's. Another news item in 1954 describes Ms. James'

appreciation for the local welcome: when a contractor removed logs her students had been using for chairs, he thoughtfully returned with wooden boxes for their comfort. Mr. Browne was a volunteer fireman and founder of the Winter Harbor Improvement Association; a group similar to our current chamber of commerce. The Brownes painted and donated signs to welcome visitors to Winter Harbor and they remained active year round residents, except for occasional winter trips to Europe. The Art Gallery displayed their work for over 60 years on our Main Street, as they preserved local scenes and landscapes from their adopted community. Many paintings continue in private collections, but one special seascape will, hopefully remain forever on the wall of the Gallery bathroom. We thank George Blance and his partner for preserving this building and we look forward to its future role in our community.

### **Programs**

#### ***Winter Harbor Navy Base***

Dale Woodward will discuss his 30 year career at the Winter Harbor Navy Base. Mr. Woodward began as an antenna mechanic and assisted with the closing of the base, as its director of public works.

June 27 at 7pm at Winter Harbor Historical Society

#### ***Channing Chapel Preservation Society/Winter Harbor Library***

Enjoy a discussion with board members from both organizations about the history of the chapel, the repurposing of the building and current renovations.

July 18 at 7pm at the Winter Harbor Library

#### ***Fond Memory***

Polly Earl will lead a discussion of her grandmother, Myra Smith Earl's memoirs describing her early life in Winter Harbor before 1900.

August 15 at 7pm at Winter Harbor Historical Society

#### ***Winter Harbor Cemeteries***

Grace Gerrish, sexton of the Winter Harbor Cemetery Association will share her decades of history with the organization.

September 19 at 7pm at Winter Harbor Historical Society

***Enjoy the Peninsula Gazette, a local newspaper written from 1954-1960 on the Winter Harbor Historical Society web site.***

***Receive news and updates on Winter Harbor Historical Society Facebook.***

### **Seeking**

Town Reports for 1903, Lobstering and fishing artifacts for a museum exhibit.

*Winter Harbor Historical Society*

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

June 2018

---

**NEWSLETTER**

---

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Are you interested in the history of Winter Harbor and have some time to spare helping the Historical Society with our programs and events? If so, please contact us at [winterharborhistory@gmail.com](mailto:winterharborhistory@gmail.com)

**Winter Harbor Historical Society**  
**President: Diana Young**  
**Vice-President: Deborah Joy Martin**  
**Secretary: Pearl Follett Barto**  
**Treasurer: Cathy Lilly Carruthers**  
**Building & Grounds: Brent Hurd**  
**Board Members**  
**Johanna Smith Dan Keegan**  
**Billy Bickford Sharon Coombs Marge Gerrish**  
**Barbara Campbell**